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# WOMEN in CANADA

## A Statistical Report

Canada





Statistics Canada  
Social and Economic Studies Division

# WOMEN in CANADA

## A Statistical Report

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# PREFACE

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This publication is a collection of statistics documenting the evolution of the status of women in Canada since 1970. It is intended to aid the continuing discussion and evaluation of the changing roles and social characteristics of Canadian women as well as contribute to the development of policies concerning the status of women in Canada.

This report describes statistically the major aspects of women's lives including their family status, education, health and work experience, indicating where significant changes have occurred. It also identifies areas where progress has been slow toward ensuring that women are full participants in the social and economic fabric of Canadian life.

*Women in Canada* was prepared in the Social and Economic Studies Division of Statistics Canada. The final version was edited by Colin Lindsay and Jo-Anne Belliveau with the assistance of Mary Sue Devereaux. This version owes much to earlier drafts prepared by Carole Vallerand and Catherine Bronson.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "M B Wilk".

Martin B. Wilk,  
Chief Statistician.

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# INTRODUCTION

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For Canadian women the period since 1970 has been a time of great change. During these years, social and economic opportunities for women expanded greatly, but at the same time, new problems and pressures have emerged. This publication documents, in statistical terms, the evolving status of women in Canadian society – with respect to their family status, education, health, labour force participation and income. A final section describes trends in the criminal victimization of women as well as their involvement in criminal activity.

Because statistics are presented in a comparative form for both sexes, this report is also about men and about society. As well, the changes experienced by women have not occurred in isolation. Many have resulted in complementary changes in the status of men, or in our institutions. At the same time, progress in other areas may have been retarded because there has been inadequate response in the behaviour of men or social institutions.

The statistics presented in this report are national in scope although disaggregations are presented for groups of women by age, marital

status, education or other variables where these differences contribute to an understanding of the underlying dynamics of an issue.

Most of the series in this report cover the time period from 1970 through the early 1980s. This time frame was chosen because it was an era of particularly rapid changes related to women. Readers should be aware, however, that few if any of the trends reported actually originated during the period under discussion. Rather, what has happened since 1970, in most cases, reflects the continuation or expansion of longer term trends.

Only a small proportion of the information presented in this report is original data, as much of it has been published previously in other sources. However, the primary purpose of this report is to consolidate the disparate series on women into one reference manual, specifically for use by Canadians whose work or studies encompass the wide range of issues and topics of importance to women, but also for Canadians with an interest in the evolving social fabric of our society.

Some of the items of interest reported in this document include:

- while most adult Canadians still live in some type of family, between 1971 and 1981 the proportion of women aged 15 and over living alone increased from 6% to 10%; as well, 32% of women 65 and over lived alone in 1981.
- almost one out of every ten families in Canada is a lone-parent family headed by a woman.
- fertility among Canadian women has declined drastically; there were just over 1,000 more births in 1982 than in 1970 despite the fact there were over 1 million more women of child-bearing age.
- women made up 51% of all university students in 1982-83, up from 37% in 1970-71; women in university, however, are overrepresented in part-time studies and underrepresented in graduate programs.
- women in postsecondary education remain concentrated in traditionally female fields of study; in 1982, 61% of women receiving bachelor's degrees majored in either education, fine arts, humanities, nursing or social sciences such as psychology, sociology and



- social work; 63% of female community college graduates received their diplomas or certificates in arts, secretarial science, community and social services, education or nursing.
- the percentage of women participating in the labour force increased from 38% in 1970 to 53% in 1983; the largest increases were recorded for married women and women with young children.
- 26% of women's employment in 1983 was part-time compared with 8% of male employment.
- female employees are concentrated in a narrow range of occupations; in 1983, 77% were employed in clerical, service, sales, teaching and health related positions.

- in 1982, women's average earnings were 64% of those of men; this figure is up from 60% in 1971.
- families headed by women aged 15-64 have incomes which average half those of families headed by men.
- in 1982, 45% of families headed by women aged 15-64 and 60% of unattached elderly women had incomes below Statistics Canada's Low-Income Cut-Offs.
- since the mid-1970s, violent crimes against women have increased at a faster rate than most other types of violent crimes.

**The Starting Point – Population:** In Canada, women have been in the majority since the early 1970s. In 1984, there were 12.7 million women

making up almost 51% of the total population, a share which has been steadily climbing (Table 1).

This increase in the share of total population recorded for women is explained largely by the fact that women live longer than men with the result that there are increasingly more women than men 65 years and over (Table 2). In fact, women are in the majority only for the older ages. The population under 55 years of age contains more men than women; it is after age 55 that women begin to predominate, making up larger and larger shares of each successive age group. For those 75 and older, almost two out of three people are women.

# INTRODUCTION

**Table 1** Women as a Proportion of the Total Population, 1970-1984

	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total Population
1970	10,628.0	10,669.1	49.9
1971	10,772.9	10,795.4	49.9
1972	10,900.5	10,900.8	50.0
1973	11,032.6	11,010.4	50.1
1974	11,204.9	11,159.0	50.1
1975	11,383.3	11,313.8	50.2
1976	11,543.1	11,449.5	50.2
1977	11,694.4	11,578.3	50.2
1978	11,827.8	11,689.2	50.3
1979	11,954.2	11,793.1	50.3
1980	12,113.2	11,929.3	50.4
1981	12,274.9	12,068.3	50.4
1982	12,428.8	12,205.5	50.5
1983	12,566.2	12,323.6	50.5
1984	12,694.4	12,433.5	50.5

**Sources:** *1981 Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-901.  
Statistics Canada, Demography Division, unpublished updates.

**Table 2** Population by Age Group, 1971, 1981 and 1984

Age Group	1971			1981			1984		
	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total
	000's	000's		000's	000's		000's	000's	
0-14	3,117.5	3,263.5	48.9	2,669.9	2,811.0	48.7	2,659.7	2,800.4	48.7
15-24	1,987.5	2,016.2	49.6	2,302.4	2,356.3	49.4	2,190.0	2,265.0	49.2
25-34	1,428.0	1,461.6	49.4	2,110.3	2,105.9	50.1	2,218.7	2,203.1	50.2
35-44	1,240.6	1,285.8	49.1	1,471.2	1,497.0	49.6	1,697.1	1,713.4	49.8
45-54	1,159.2	1,132.3	50.6	1,242.4	1,256.4	49.7	1,255.8	1,267.7	49.8
55-64	877.6	854.1	50.7	1,128.4	1,030.8	52.3	1,197.0	1,103.2	52.0
65-74	575.7	501.6	53.4	806.0	671.8	54.5	858.5	705.2	54.9
75 and over	386.8	280.2	58.0	544.2	339.0	61.6	617.3	375.6	62.2
Total	10,772.9	10,795.4	49.9	12,274.9	12,068.3	50.4	12,694.4	12,433.5	50.5

**Sources:** 1981 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-901.  
1971 *Census of Canada*, unpublished updates.  
Statistics Canada, Demography Division, unpublished data.



# FAMILY

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**H**ow Canadians live domestically, whether in a family or in another kind of household, has been evolving for decades. But the period since the early 1970s has been remarkable for the pace and scope of changes in family lifestyles.

More Canadians than ever before are living outside traditional two-parent families. There have been substantial increases in the population living alone and in families headed by lone parents, and women make up the majority of both groups. At the same time, the traditional family itself has changed. Canadians are marrying later and divorcing and remarrying in large numbers. Couples are having fewer children. Many more wives, including those with young children, are working outside the home.

The evolution of domestic living arrangements has particular significance for women. The quality of women's lives and their social and economic opportunities outside the family are affected to a far greater degree by their type of family and living arrangement than are those of men.

Women, for example, are far more likely than men to terminate or reduce paid employment outside the home

when they marry and especially when there are children. As well, the family is a greater source of financial security for most women than for their spouses, such that when family units dissolve, either through divorce or death of a spouse, women are far more vulnerable to economic hardship.

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## Living Arrangements

Although domestic living arrangements have been changing, the majority of Canadians still live in some type of family setting. In 1981, there were 6.3 million families<sup>1</sup> in Canada, (Table 1) and 82% of all women aged 15 and over lived in a family (Table 2): 60% were wives in a two-parent family; 6% headed lone-parent families; and 16% were children living at home. However, the family status of women in different age groups varies considerably from these averages.

Among those aged 25-64, for example, more than three-quarters were partners in either a traditional husband-wife family or common-law relationship. By contrast, fewer than 41% of women 65

and over had a partner, and the majority were not living in a family.

As well, the 1971-1981 period was characterized by significant growth in both the number of lone-parent families headed by women and the number of women living alone.

**Lone-Parent Families:** In 1981, almost one of every 10 Canadian families was headed by a female lone parent (Table 1). These 590,000 families represented an increase of 59% from 1971. By contrast, the number of husband-wife families and families headed by a male lone parent rose by just over 20%.

The majority (56%) of female lone parents were women whose marriages had ended either in divorce or separation; while another third of these women were widows (Table 3). The remaining 11% had never been married.

**Living Alone:** The 1971-1981 decade also saw a dramatic increase in the number of Canadians living alone. One-person households more than doubled from 800,000 to almost 1.7 million (Table 4), and of this latter total, almost

---

<sup>1</sup> Families include husband-wife couples with or without children living at home and lone parents with children living at home. Husband-wife couples include persons living common law. Statistics Canada estimated that in 1981 approximately 6% of all husband-wife couples were common-law partnerships.

one million were women (Table 5).

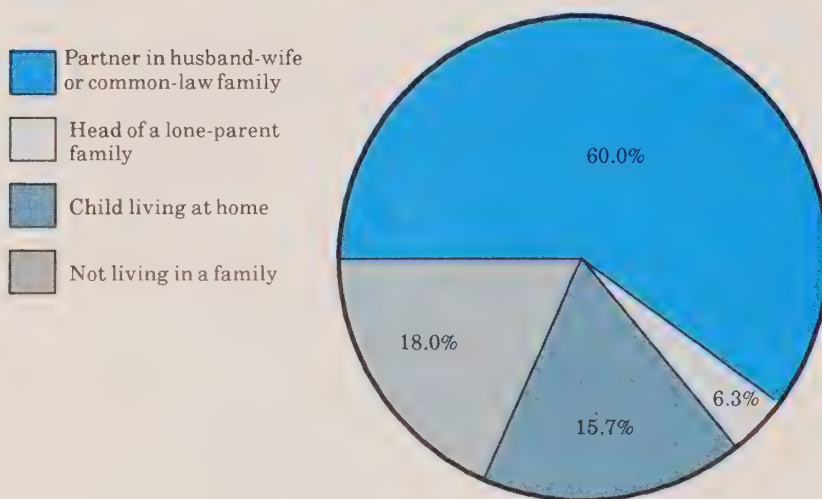
By far the largest single group of people living alone are elderly women. In 1981, 435,000 women over 65 did so and this was nearly one-third of all women over 65. In contrast, there were only 131,000 elderly men living alone, just 13% of all men 65 and over

(Table 5). The main reason for this phenomenon is that women outlive men by a significant margin. The average life expectancy for women in Canada was 79 years in 1981, seven years longer than the average for men.

While proportionately fewer women in younger age categories live alone, their

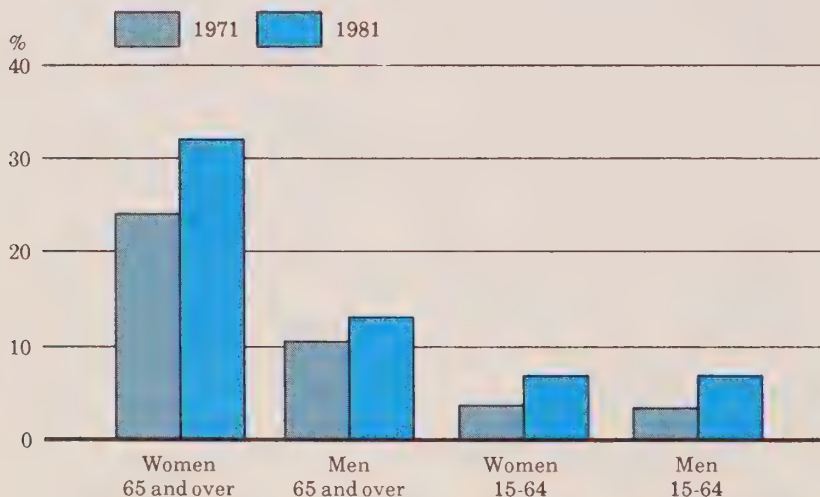
numbers actually increased at a more rapid rate than the rate for the elderly. This is particularly true for women aged 15-34, among whom the number living alone more than tripled during the 1970s. Still, more men than women at these younger ages live in one-person households. As well, for people under 65 there was almost no difference in the rates of increase in living alone experienced by women and men (Table 5).

**Figure 1** Family Status of Women Aged 15 and Over, 1981



Source: Table 2

**Figure 2** Proportion of the Population Living Alone, by Age Group, 1971 and 1981



Source: Table 5

### Economic Implications:

The marked growth of the number of lone-parent families headed by women and elderly women living alone has important implications for government policy in Canada. As described in more detail in Section IV, these two groups are among the most vulnerable to economic hardship. In 1982, almost half of lone-parent families headed by women and 60% of elderly unattached women had incomes below official low-income lines. These two groups accounted for almost one-third of all low-income households in Canada.

### Patterns of Family Living

**Marriage:** In 1981, more than half (60%) of adult women were either married or living in common-law marriages (Table 6), and there was little change in the distribution of women's marital status from 1971 to 1981. As with family status, though, variations by age are considerable. A large majority of women aged 25 to 64 are married; most women 65 and over are widowed (Table 7).

The marriage rate for

women, however, has been falling: from 70 marriages for every 1,000 women eligible to marry in 1970, to 51 in 1982 (Table 8). As a result, even though the number of people of marriageable age has increased considerably, there was little difference in the number of marriages in 1970 and 1982.

The decline in marriage rates is related to several factors. First, among both men and women, there is a growing trend to delay marriage. In 1982, the average age of women marrying for the first time was 23.7, almost a full year more than in 1970 (Table 8). The same increase has occurred for men, although on average men are still 2.2 years older than women when they marry for the first time. One of the potential implications of this difference is that women have fewer years in which to complete their education or to acquire labour force experience.

Another factor related to the decline in the marriage rate may be an increase in the number of couples who live together without marrying. As well, the population eligible for marriage includes a growing number of divorced and widowed women who are less likely to marry than young, single women.

**Divorce:** While the number of marriages has remained unchanged over the past decade, the number of divorces has climbed since the 1968 Divorce Act (Table 9). Between 1970 and 1983, the divorce rate nearly doubled, and the number rose from under 30,000 in 1970 to close to 69,000 in 1983. The number of divorces, however, actually declined by almost 2,000 in 1983.

Since the mid-seventies,

the proportion of divorces involving children has fallen: from 59% in 1974 to 53% by 1982 (Table 10). This decline occurred because more couples are remaining childless or divorcing before the arrival of any children.

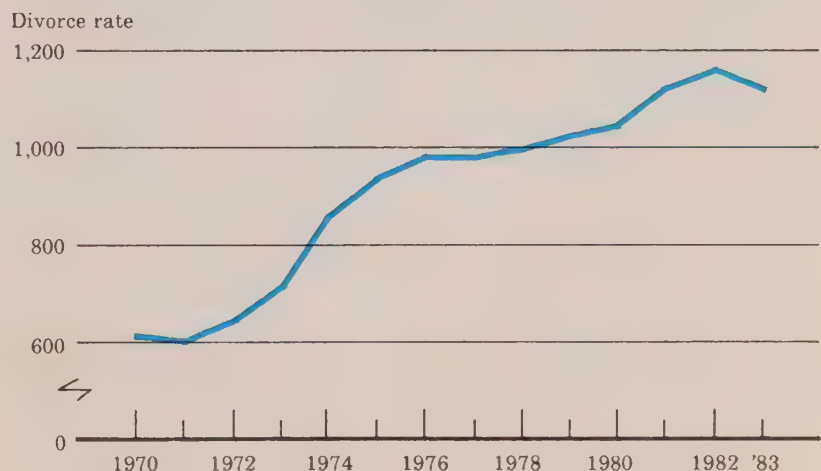
Still, women continue to retain custody of over three-fourths of all children involved in divorces and this percentage actually increased by four percentage points between 1970 and 1982 (Table 11).

Which parent receives custody of the children is strongly associated with which one petitions for divorce. When wives are the petitioner, they are granted custody in almost 9 out of 10 cases. Yet even when the husband petitions, the wife is awarded custody in more than half the cases. For example, in 1982, women received custody in 53% of such cases, versus 35% for the husband. This pattern is a considerable change since 1970, when husbands petitioning for divorce received custody 40% of the time compared with 36% for their wives.

**Remarriage:** Related to the increase in divorce has been a growing number of remarriages (Table 12). In 1982, more than twice as many divorced women married for at least the second time as in the early 1970s, and divorced women who were remarrying made up 16% of all brides in 1982 compared with 7% in 1970. Even so, divorced women remarrying constitute a smaller percentage of people marrying each year than do divorced men marrying for at least the second time.

**Children:** One of the more dramatic changes involving families pertains to child-bearing (Table 13). Despite an increase of more than a million women of child-bearing age, there were only just over 1,000 more live births in Canada in 1982 than in 1970. As a result, the fertility rate, that is the number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-49, fell from 71 to 56. The decline in fertility is evident for women of all ages, although among

**Figure 3** Divorce Rate, 1970-1983



Source: Table 9



women in their early thirties the rate has actually risen somewhat since 1975.

The overall decline in fertility and the modest upturn among women in their early thirties are indicative of such other trends as the delaying of childbirth, increasing childlessness among couples, and the declining number of children per family.

In 1982 the median age of mothers at the birth of their first child was 24.6. This compares with 22.8 in 1971. (Note, though, that part of this increase of 1.8 years is a result of later marriages.) However, the average time period between first and second births remained the same during the 1970s (Table 14).

A growing proportion of families have no children. Between 1971 and 1981, the number of families without children living at home rose by 38% while the number of husband-wife families with children increased by just 14% (Table 1). Families without children at home include families which have never had

children plus families which have children who are no longer living at home. In 1981, 15% of all families had never had children. Unfortunately, there are no comparable figures for earlier years, as the 1981 Census was the first one to address this question. At the same time, the proportion of ever married women who were childless increased for all age groups under 40 (Table 15). Childless women include women who have decided not to have children or who can never have children plus those that are delaying childbearing. Given the slight upswing in fertility among women in their thirties, it is possible that the apparent growth in childlessness between 1971 and 1981 may be reflective of postponement of childbearing as much as lifelong choices to remain childless.

Canadian families are becoming smaller. In 1971, husband-wife families had 1.7 children on average; by 1981 the figure had fallen to 1.3. Viewed against historical patterns of gradual demographic

change, this decline is remarkable (Table 16).

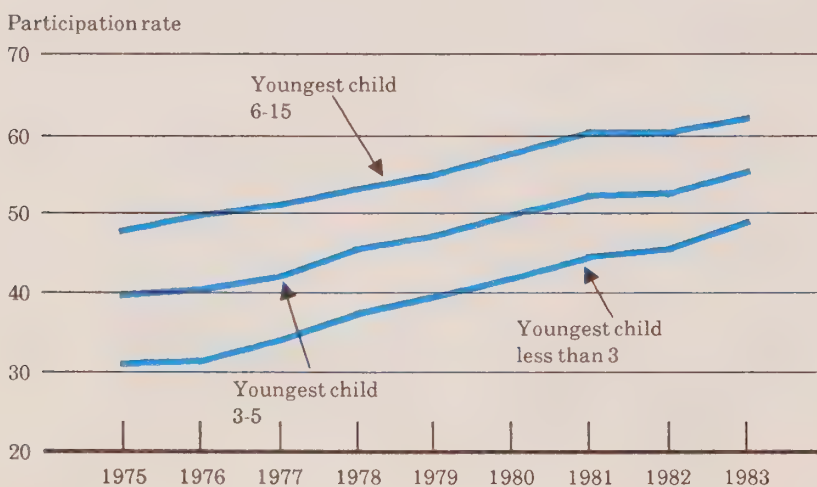
A variety of factors are producing these trends, including greater knowledge and use of birth control techniques, changing attitudes about the desirability and affordability of children, and changing ideals about family size and roles. The rising labour force participation of women, especially married women, is doubtless also related to the decline in family size.

**Birth Control:** The method of birth control most commonly associated with the decline in fertility is the birth control pill. In 1978-79, 16% of all women aged 15-64 reported employing this method of contraception; usage, however, varies widely with age (Table 17). Women 20-24 made the greatest use of the pill - 42% reported using it that year. Usage declined markedly among succeeding age groups, from 29% for women 25-29 to just over 2% among women 45-64.

**Working Mothers:** Traditionally, few married women and fewer women with children worked outside their homes. Yet in the last few years, this has changed dramatically, and these groups have led the large influx of women into the paid labour force, a topic discussed in greater detail in Section III.

Between 1975 and 1983 the labour force participation rate of married women rose by almost 11 percentage points, over twice the growth recorded for single women (Table 18). Increases in the labour force participation of women with children<sup>2</sup> were even more impressive (Table 19). In the eight-year period 1975-1983, their participation

**Figure 4** Labour Force Participation Rate of Women by Age of Youngest child, 1975-1983



Source: Table 19

<sup>2</sup> Includes women with at least one child under 16 living at home.

rate went from 42% to 57%. Moreover, increases occurred among women with children of all ages. Participation was up 14 percentage points for women whose youngest child was between 6 and 15, up 16 percentage points when the youngest child was 3 to 5, and up 17 percentage points for those with at least one child under 3.

Yet despite large increases in labour force participation among married women and those with children, their participation rates were still significantly lower than those without such familial responsibilities. In 1983, for example, 64% of single women were in the labour force compared with 52% of married women. And as would be expected, mothers are less likely to take on paid employment when their children are very young. To illustrate, participation rises from 49% among women with at least one child under 3, to 56% when the youngest child was 3 to 5 years, and reaches 62% for women with children between 6 and 15.

Even when women are employed outside the home, most continue to bear the primary burden of family and home care<sup>3</sup>. Women in the labour force average almost 4 hours each day on domestic and child care duties compared with 6 hours for women not in the labour force and two hours for men. However, because

women average fewer work-related hours than men, total working hours (the combined amount of time on work-related and household activities), of men and women in the labour force are roughly equal. On the other hand, employed women have an average of a half-hour of discretionary time less each day than men and an hour and three-quarters less than women who are not in the labour force (Table 20).

**Child Care:** The growth of labour force participation by women has been accompanied by an increase in the demand for child care arrangements.

By 1981, fewer than half of all children under 6 were cared for exclusively by their parents. Over 1.1 million were either attending nursery school or kindergarten or being cared for by a person or persons other than their parents (Table 21).

In the 1973-1982 period, although the number of day-care spaces in Canada quadrupled (Table 22), daycare still served only 11% of children involved in non-parental care. Far greater numbers of children are supervised in another private household or by someone coming into the child's home.

**Figure 5** Time Spent on Selected Activities, 1981



Source: Table 20

<sup>3</sup> These data are drawn from a 1981 Time Budget Survey conducted by the Department of Communications, Employment and Immigration Canada and Statistics Canada.

**Table 1** Husband-Wife and Lone-Parent Families, 1971 and 1981

	1971		1981		Increase in 1971-1981	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Husband-wife <sup>1</sup>	4,605,485	90.7	5,611,500	88.7	1,006,015	21.8
With children	3,146,165	62.0	3,598,860	56.9	452,695	14.4
Without children at home	1,359,320	28.7	2,012,640	31.8	553,320	37.9
Childless	..	..	921,810	14.6	..	..
Lone-parent	470,605	9.3	713,820	11.3	243,215	51.7
Female parent	370,820	7.3	589,435	9.3	218,615	59.0
Male parent	99,785	2.0	124,380	2.0	24,595	24.6
Total	5,076,090	100.0	6,325,315	100.0	1,249,225	24.6

<sup>1</sup> In 1971, children at home included never married children under 25 living at home. In 1981, children at home included all never married children living at home regardless of age.

.. Figures not available.

**Sources:** 1971 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogues 93-720 and 93-721.  
1981 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-935.

**Table 2** Family Status of Women Aged 15 and Over, 1976 and 1981

	Women aged 15-24		Women aged 25-64		Women aged 65 and over		Total	
	1976	1981	1976	1981	1976	1981	1976	1981
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Wife in husband-wife family <sup>1</sup>	28.8	26.2	79.2	77.0	39.9	40.7	61.5	60.0
Head of lone- parent family	1.5	2.0	6.9	8.0	6.7	5.9	5.5	6.3
Child living at home	57.4	57.9	2.6	2.5	—	—	16.4	15.7
Not living in a family	12.3	13.9	11.3	12.4	53.3	53.4	16.6	18.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of women (000's)	2,164	2,268	5,236	5,884	1,001	1,201	8,401	9,352

<sup>1</sup> Includes married and common-law couples.  
— Nil.

**Sources:** 1976 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 93-810.  
1981 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-905.



**Table 3** Marital Status of Lone Parents, 1981

	Women	Men	Women	Men
	No.	No.	%	%
Widowed	196,525	36,655	33.3	29.5
Married (spouse absent) <sup>1</sup>	173,055	50,250	29.3	40.5
Divorced	155,575	31,890	26.4	25.7
Single (never married)	64,670	5,380	11.0	4.3
Total	589,825	124,175	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes separated.**Source:** 1981 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-905.**Table 4** Family and Non-Family Households, 1971, 1976 and 1981

	1971	1976	1981	1971	1976	1981
	No.	No.	No.	%	%	%
Family households	4,933,450	5,633,945	6,231,490	81.7	78.6	75.2
One family	4,812,360	5,542,295	6,140,330	79.7	77.3	74.1
Two or more families	121,085	91,655	91,155	2.0	1.3	1.1
Non-family households	1,107,855	1,532,150	2,050,045	18.3	21.4	24.8
One person	811,835	1,205,340	1,681,130	13.4	16.8	20.3
Two or more persons	296,020	326,810	368,910	4.9	4.6	4.5
Total	6,041,305	7,166,095	8,281,530	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Sources:** 1971 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada Catalogue 93-703.  
1976 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada Catalogue 93-806.  
1981 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-904.

**Table 5** Persons Living Alone by Age Group, 1971, 1976 and 1981

Age Group	Women			Men		
	1971	1976	1981	1971	1976	1981
15-24	34,670	73,520	100,820	35,175	69,745	100,270
25-34	39,940	86,265	148,455	55,785	115,880	198,425
35-44	29,315	39,875	63,270	43,805	60,040	95,880
45-54	51,795	66,935	78,075	47,670	65,510	83,480
55-64	100,970	133,785	162,235	52,690	64,370	84,515
65 and over	232,935	325,435	434,640	86,585	103,975	131,070
Total	489,620	725,815	987,490	321,710	479,525	693,640
Percent of Population in Same Age Group						
15-24	1.7	3.3	4.4	1.7	3.1	4.3
25-34	2.8	4.8	7.0	3.8	6.4	9.4
35-44	2.4	3.1	4.3	3.4	4.6	6.4
45-54	4.5	5.4	6.3	4.2	5.3	6.6
55-64	11.5	13.4	14.4	6.2	6.9	8.2
65 and over	24.2	28.9	32.2	11.1	11.9	13.0
Total	6.4	8.4	10.3	4.3	5.7	7.5

**Sources:** 1971 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 93-707.  
1976 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 93-809.  
1981 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-905.

**Table 6** Marital Status of the Population Aged 15 and Over, 1971, 1976 and 1981

	1971		1976		1981	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Married <sup>1</sup>	61.1	62.8	60.9	63.0	59.7	62.1
Separated	2.7	2.2	2.5	1.9	2.7	2.2
Widowed	9.8	2.5	9.9	2.3	10.0	2.2
Divorced	1.3	1.0	2.1	1.4	3.1	2.2
Single (never married)	25.0	31.6	24.6	31.4	24.5	31.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total persons    000's	7,656	7,532	8,667	8,430	9,605	9,257

<sup>1</sup> Includes those living common law.

**Source:** 1981 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-901.

**Table 7** Marital Status by Age Group, 1971 and 1981

	Single	Married <sup>1</sup>	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Total Population
	%	%	%	%	%	000's
<b>1971</b>						
Women: 15-24	69.1	30.4	0.2	0.3	100.0	1,988
25-44	10.0	86.7	1.4	1.9	100.0	2,669
45-64	8.3	78.3	11.6	1.8	100.0	2,037
65 and over	10.7	39.2	49.4	0.7	100.0	963
Men: 15-24	84.0	15.7	0.1	0.1	100.0	2,016
25-44	15.3	83.1	0.4	1.3	100.0	2,747
45-64	9.1	87.0	2.4	1.5	100.0	1,986
65 and over	10.6	71.8	16.7	0.9	100.0	782
<b>1981</b>						
Women: 15-24	71.9	27.6	0.1	0.4	100.0	2,302
25-44	11.8	82.7	0.9	4.6	100.0	3,581
45-64	7.7	86.7	2.2	3.5	100.0	2,287
65 and over	7.2	41.1	50.5	1.1	100.0	1,310
Men: 15-24	85.2	14.6	0.0	0.1	100.0	2,356
25-44	17.5	79.5	0.2	2.8	100.0	3,603
45-64	7.7	86.7	2.2	3.5	100.0	2,287
65 and over	8.5	75.6	14.1	1.8	100.0	1,011

<sup>1</sup> Includes those living common law and those separated.

**Sources:** 1971 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-730.  
1981 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-901.

**Table 8** Marriages, Marriage Rates and Average Age at First Marriage, 1970-1982

	Number of Marriages	Marriage Rates <sup>1</sup>		Average Age of Brides	Average Age of Bridegrooms
		Women	Men		
1970	188,428	69.5	71.8	22.7	24.9
1971	191,324	69.2	72.4	22.6	24.9
1972	200,470	70.6	74.3	22.2	24.7
1973	199,064	68.3	72.2	22.3	24.7
1974	198,824	66.3	70.4	22.4	24.7
1975	197,858	64.1	68.3	22.5	24.9
1976	193,343	61.0	65.4	22.7	25.0
1977	187,344	57.4	61.8	22.8	25.1
1978	185,523	55.3	59.7	23.0	25.2
1979	187,811	54.5	59.2	23.1	25.4
1980	191,069	54.0	58.9	23.3	25.5
1981	190,082	52.6	57.6	23.5	25.7
1982	188,360	50.7	55.6	23.7	25.9

<sup>1</sup> Marriages per 1,000 single, widowed and divorced population 15 and over.

**Sources:** *Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-205.

*1981 Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-901.

*1970 Population Estimates by Marital Status, Age and Sex*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 91-203.

*1971-1976 Revised Population Estimates by Marital Status, Age and Sex*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 91-519.

**Table 9** Divorces and Divorce Rate, 1970-1983

	Number of Divorces	Divorce Rate <sup>1</sup>
1970	29,775	621.0
1971	29,685	607.2
1972	32,389	649.0
1973	36,704	719.7
1974	45,019	860.1
1975	50,611	942.4
1976	54,207	985.6
1977	55,370	988.9
1978	57,155	1004.0
1979	59,474	1028.7
1980	62,019	1053.7
1981	67,671	1129.2
1982	70,436	1164.4
1983	68,567	1125.2

<sup>1</sup> Divorces per 100,000 married women aged 15 years and over.

**Source:** *Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-205.



**Table 10 Divorces<sup>1</sup> by Number of Dependent Children, 1970-1982**

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979 <sup>2</sup>	1980	1981	1982
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Without children	46.9	44.6	44.2	43.3	41.3	42.4	44.3	44.5	44.9	46.0	47.1	48.1	47.4
With children	53.1	55.4	55.8	56.7	58.7	57.6	55.7	55.5	55.1	54.0	52.9	51.9	52.6
One	20.6	20.9	21.8	22.4	22.8	22.7	22.6	22.7	22.7	23.1	22.6	22.8	23.1
Two	17.2	18.3	18.4	18.7	19.6	19.7	19.4	20.2	21.0	20.6	20.8	20.7	21.4
Three or more	15.3	16.2	15.6	15.6	16.3	15.2	13.7	12.6	11.4	10.3	9.5	8.4	8.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of divorces	29,238	29,685	32,389	36,704	45,019	50,611	54,207	55,370	57,155	59,474	62,019	67,671	70,436

<sup>1</sup> Includes only divorces filed under the 1968 Divorce Act.

<sup>2</sup> Percentages do not include divorces in Manitoba.

Source: *Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-205.

**Table 11** Children Involved in Divorces by Party to Whom Custody Was Granted, 1970-1982

Petitioner and Person to Whom Custody Granted	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Wife</b>													
To wife	88.9	89.2	88.2	88.4	87.7	88.2	89.8	91.2	88.9	88.8	88.2	87.8	86.9
To husband	3.4	4.2	4.5	5.3	5.8	6.4	6.1	5.3	6.9	7.2	7.6	7.2	7.6
To other <sup>1</sup>	7.7	6.7	7.3	6.3	6.6	5.4	4.1	3.5	4.2	4.0	4.2	5.0	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of cases <sup>2</sup>	11,140	11,773	12,888	14,898	19,567	21,594	22,505	22,722	23,277	23,106	23,861	25,791	46,517
<b>Husband</b>													
To husband	40.4	40.2	37.6	37.2	35.3	35.8	38.2	38.8	38.1	37.2	36.4	37.4	35.4
To wife	36.4	40.5	43.3	46.1	48.4	51.1	50.8	50.6	52.3	53.6	54.0	52.9	53.4
To other <sup>1</sup>	23.1	19.2	19.2	16.7	16.2	13.1	11.0	10.6	9.6	9.2	9.6	9.7	11.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of cases <sup>2</sup>	4,856	5,211	5,859	6,753	8,007	8,755	11,709	11,875	16,660	16,512	17,522	17,824	18,824
<b>Total</b>													
To wife	73.0	74.2	74.2	75.2	76.3	77.5	78.9	79.7	78.7	78.7	78.2	77.9	77.2
To husband	14.6	15.2	14.8	15.3	14.3	14.9	15.0	14.8	15.6	15.8	16.0	15.8	15.6
To other <sup>1</sup>	12.4	10.5	11.0	9.5	9.4	7.6	6.1	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.8	6.3	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of cases <sup>2</sup>	15,996	16,984	18,747	21,651	27,574	30,349	42,203	42,073	54,436	57,856	59,600	62,434	65,341

<sup>1</sup> To other person or agency or no award of custody.<sup>2</sup> Cases include each child involved in a divorce, not just total divorces.Source: *Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-205.

**Table 12** Divorced Persons Remarrying, 1970-1982

	Number of Divorced Persons Remarrying		Divorced Persons Remarrying as a % of All Marriages	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
1970	13,052	14,371	6.9	7.6
1971	14,351	15,521	7.5	8.1
1972	15,402	16,985	7.7	8.5
1973	17,214	18,871	8.6	9.5
1974	19,064	21,295	9.6	10.7
1975	21,312	23,948	10.8	12.1
1976	22,308	24,931	11.9	13.3
1977	23,555	26,227	12.6	14.0
1978	24,931	27,713	13.4	14.9
1979	26,492	29,220	14.1	15.6
1980	27,993	31,043	14.7	16.2
1981	29,517	32,405	15.5	17.0
1982	29,951	33,334	15.9	17.7

**Source:** *Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-205.

**Table 13** Live Births and Age-Specific Fertility Rates, by Age of Mother, 1970-1982<sup>1</sup>

	Age Group of Mother							Total Live Births
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
Live Births								
1970	42,277	127,254	107,302	50,547	23,681	6,964	542	371,988
1971	40,188	124,310	108,824	48,778	20,370	5,728	373	362,187
1972	39,640	114,383	110,202	46,879	17,536	4,701	350	347,319
1973	39,518	111,556	113,850	46,144	15,516	3,907	239	343,373
1974	38,314	111,409	119,238	48,142	14,133	3,333	222	350,650
1975	38,818	115,615	124,433	49,725	13,559	2,949	215	359,323
1976	37,402	114,924	125,930	51,616	13,569	2,664	179	359,987
1977	35,971	115,518	126,610	56,551	13,664	2,208	172	361,400
1978	33,703	112,778	126,617	59,227	13,358	2,166	158	358,852
1979	31,649	112,894	131,453	63,025	14,141	2,065	115	366,064
1980	31,000	112,542	133,810	65,304	14,617	1,946	107	370,709
1981	29,062	110,552	135,598	67,681	15,331	2,080	113	371,346
1982	28,262	109,952	136,925	68,732	17,100	2,116	95	373,082
Age-Specific Fertility Rates <sup>2</sup>								General Fertility Rate <sup>3</sup>
1970	42.8	143.3	147.2	81.8	39.0	11.3	.9	71.2
1971	40.1	134.4	142.0	77.3	33.6	9.4	.6	67.7
1972	38.5	119.8	137.1	72.1	28.9	7.8	.6	63.4
1973	37.2	117.7	131.6	67.1	25.7	6.4	.4	61.5
1974	35.3	113.1	131.1	66.6	23.0	5.5	.4	60.6
1975	35.3	112.7	131.2	64.4	21.6	4.8	.4	61.2
1976	33.4	110.3	129.9	65.6	21.1	4.3	.3	60.3
1977	32.0	108.0	129.8	67.1	20.5	3.6	.3	59.4
1978	29.7	103.1	128.1	67.1	19.5	3.6	.3	58.0
1979	27.9	101.8	130.8	69.1	19.5	3.4	.2	58.2
1980	27.6	100.1	129.4	69.3	19.4	3.1	.2	57.9
1981	26.4	96.7	126.9	68.0	19.4	3.2	.2	56.7
1982	26.5	95.4	124.7	68.6	20.2	3.1	.2	56.3

<sup>1</sup> Live births by age of mother, age-specific fertility rates and the general fertility rate do not include births in Newfoundland. Total live births do include births in Newfoundland.

<sup>2</sup> Represents the number of live births born to women in each age group per 1,000 women in that age group.

<sup>3</sup> Represents the total number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-49.

**Sources:** *Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-202.  
*Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-204.



**Table 14** Median Age of Mothers Giving Birth to First or Second Children, 1971-1982<sup>1</sup>

	Median Age at First Birth	Median Age at Second Birth
1971	22.8	25.3
1972	23.1	25.6
1973	23.2	25.8
1974	23.4	26.1
1975	23.5	26.2
1976	23.6	26.3
1977	23.6	26.5
1978	24.0	26.6
1979	24.2	26.7
1980	24.3	26.9
1981	24.5	27.0
1982	24.6	27.1

<sup>1</sup> Excluding Newfoundland.

**Sources:** *Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-204.  
*Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-001.

**Table 15** Ever Married Women Who Are Childless, by Age Group, 1971 and 1981

Age Group	1971		1981	
	Ever Married Childless Women	As a % of All Ever Married Women in that Age Group	Ever Married Childless Women	As a % of All Ever Married Women in that Age Group
15-19	38,665	49.7	48,175	64.9
20-24	224,545	42.0	309,140	54.0
25-29	137,320	20.7	261,835	30.0
30-34	54,885	9.4	129,955	14.2
35-39	42,445	7.4	70,010	9.3
40-44	47,105	8.2	45,625	7.3
45 and over	364,880	13.4	363,805	10.9
Total	909,850	15.8	1,228,550	17.2

**Sources:** *1971 Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-718.  
*1981 Census of Canada*, unpublished data.

**Table 16** Average Family Size and Average Number of Children in Husband-Wife and Lone-Parent Families, 1971 and 1981

	Average Number of Persons per Family		Average Number of Children per Family	
	1971	1981	1971	1981
Husband-wife <sup>1</sup>	3.8	3.3	1.7	1.3
Lone-parent	3.1	2.7	1.8	1.7

<sup>1</sup> Includes married and common-law couples.

**Sources:** 1971 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogues 93-720 and 93-721.  
 1981 *Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-935.  
 1981 *Census of Canada*, unpublished data.

**Table 17** Use of Birth Control Pills by Age Group, 1978-1979

	Total Women	Women Using Birth Control Pills	Percentage Using Birth Control Pills
Age Group	000's	000's	%
15-19	1,146	198	17.3
20-24	1,108	462	41.7
25-29	1,006	290	28.8
30-34	906	147	16.2
35-39	714	53	7.4
40-44	616	31	5.0
45-64	2,279	54	2.4
Total	7,775	1,241	16.0

**Source:** Health Division, Statistics Canada, special tabulation.

**Table 18** Labour Force Participation by Marital Status, 1975-1983

		Labour Force Participation								
		1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
		000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's
Single										
Women		1,139	1,190	1,201	1,266	1,321	1,385	1,446	1,438	1,476
Men		1,583	1,615	1,675	1,716	1,821	1,883	1,949	1,899	1,943
Married										
Women		2,194	2,289	2,413	2,558	2,653	2,782	2,909	2,985	3,076
Men		4,517	4,551	4,606	4,695	4,742	4,785	4,810	4,838	4,852
Divorced,Separated										
Women		199	211	234	261	283	320	334	351	381
Men		142	150	168	190	195	217	246	247	253
Widowed										
Women		147	146	148	153	163	152	162	153	152
Men		52	53	55	57	53	51	49	48	51
		Participation Rate								
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Single										
Women		59.2	58.8	59.0	60.5	61.8	63.3	64.6	63.3	64.0
Men		66.9	66.1	67.2	68.0	69.8	70.8	71.2	68.9	69.5
Married										
Women		41.6	42.8	44.2	46.3	47.5	49.0	50.6	51.2	52.3
Men		85.1	84.4	84.1	84.1	84.0	83.7	83.4	82.2	81.6
Divorced,Separated										
Women		58.5	59.3	59.8	60.1	61.6	64.3	64.3	64.4	64.2
Men		76.8	77.5	76.0	78.6	78.2	78.2	79.5	79.3	77.3
Widowed										
Women		19.4	18.8	18.7	19.2	19.5	18.0	18.5	17.3	17.2
Men		30.9	29.4	31.0	31.6	29.6	26.7	26.4	25.9	27.2

**Sources:** *Historical Labour Force Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-201.  
The Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 19** Labour Force Participation of Women by Age of Youngest Child, 1975-1983

	Labour Force Participation								
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's
Youngest child									
Less than 3 years	279	282	315	340	369	387	415	434	460
3-5 years	248	256	255	273	280	296	304	316	331
6-15 years	751	800	851	901	921	947	969	984	984
Total with children under 16 years	1,278	1,338	1,421	1,514	1,570	1,630	1,689	1,733	1,774
	Participation Rate								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Youngest child									
Less than 3 years	31.2	31.7	34.0	37.6	39.4	41.7	44.5	45.6	48.9
3-5 years	40.0	40.9	42.5	46.1	47.8	50.1	52.4	53.2	55.6
6-15 years	48.2	50.0	51.9	54.3	55.6	58.2	61.1	61.6	62.0
Total with children under 16 years	41.6	43.0	44.9	48.0	49.4	51.8	54.5	55.2	56.8

**Source:** The Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.



**Table 20** Time Spent on Selected Activities, 1981

	In Labour Force		Not in Labour Force	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Minutes per Day				
Work related activities	255	353	12	30
Child care	46	22	73	7
Housework	132	47	214	80
Household maintenance	7	26	8	38
Shopping	55	34	53	50
Sub-total	495	482	360	205
Personal care (including sleep)	644	630	675	708
Organizations	10	15	21	25
Adult education	12	8	21	16
Entertainment (movies, museums)	77	61	73	72
Home based leisure (radio, TV)	161	203	217	354
Activities (sports, hobbies)	42	43	73	61
Sub-total	946	960	1,080	1,236

**Source:** Time Use Pilot Survey, Department of Communications, Employment and Immigration Canada, and Statistics Canada, 1981.

Table 21 Child Care Arrangements for Children Under 6 Years by Selected Characteristics of Mother, February 1981

Characteristics of Mother	Other Arrangements						Total Children <sup>1</sup> (0-5 Years)
	Exclusively By Parents In Own Home	Nursery School Or Kinder- garten	Day Care Centre	In Own Home By Person Other Than Parent	In Another Private Home	Total 000's	
	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	%
Age Group							
15-19	22	--	--	--	--	14	38.9
20-24	232	31	15	54	80	153	39.7
25-34	662	339	94	288	268	789	54.3
35-44	109	105	15	49	47	162	59.8
Marital status							
Married	951	449	100	369	376	1,041	52.3
Single	33	--	--	16	--	32	49.2
Other	51	24	16	17	15	52	50.5
Education							
0-8 years schooling	152	47	--	33	29	95	38.5
High school	639	270	56	205	205	608	48.7
Some postsecondary	58	35	15	33	40	96	62.3
Postsecondary certificate or diploma	118	81	31	81	71	195	62.3
University degree	67	50	20	48	57	131	66.2
Labour force status							
Spouse present							
- mother employed	193	184	73	208	282	588	75.3
- mother unemployed	46	24	--	25	--	50	52.1
- mother not in labour force	706	236	21	130	77	393	35.8
Spouse absent							
- mother employed	--	21	22	27	20	60	89.6
- mother unemployed	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
- mother not in labour force	71	14	--	--	--	27	27.6
Total	1,035	481	125	401	402	1,125	52.1

<sup>1</sup> Since some children are cared for by more than one type of arrangement, the numbers add to more than this total.

-- Number too small to be expressed.

Source: Survey of Child Care Highlights, *The Labour Force*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-001.

**Table 22** Day Care Centres and Spaces, 1973-1982

	Centres	Centre Spaces	Family Day Care Spaces	Total Spaces
1973	971	26,811	1,562	28,373
1974	1,538	50,996	4,185	55,181
1975	1,839	65,281	4,671	69,952
1976	1,955	78,153	5,367	83,520
1977	1,962	76,117	5,534	81,651
1978	2,050	74,516	7,763	82,279
1979	2,484	84,083	9,769	93,852
1980	2,719	97,978	10,903	108,881
1982	3,143	109,535	14,427	123,962

**Sources:** *Status of Day Care in Canada*, National Day Care Information Centre, Health and Welfare Canada.  
*Day Care Spaces in Canada - 1982*, National Day Care Information Centre, Health and Welfare Canada.





# EDUCATION

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Education has long been viewed as one of the keys to success in Canadian society – opening doors to jobs, earnings, and career and social advancement. During the period 1970-71 to 1982-83, women made dramatic strides in improving their educational qualifications. The number of women attending universities and colleges increased at a considerably faster rate than that of men, and more women than ever before earned degrees and diplomas. As a result, the gap between the educational attainment levels of women and men has narrowed. At the same time though, while women are entering male-dominated fields of study in greater numbers, they are still concentrated in traditional fields of study. And whether by choice or by necessity, women are far more likely than men to be part-time students.

The level of educational attainment has a greater bearing on the labour force activity of women than that of men. Women who are university or college graduates are far more likely to be in the labour force than those with less formal education, and their chances of being unemployed are much lower. As well, the gap between the

earnings of similarly-educated women and men closes as education increases.

**University Enrolment:** One of the major developments in Canadian education since the early nineteen seventies has been the increase in the number of women attending university. Between 1970-71 and 1982-83, total enrolment of women more than doubled from 173,000 to over 350,000. This compares with a 17% increase for men from about 294,000 to over 342,000. As a result, in 1982-83, 51% of all university students were women, an increase from 37% in 1970-71 (Table 1).

At the undergraduate level, women made up 52% of students in 1982-83, up from 39% in 1970-71. However, they are still underrepresented at graduate levels. Women accounted for 40% of graduate students in 1982-83, although this is an increase from 23% in 1970-71.

The small female majority in total enrolment and at the undergraduate level is a function, in part, of the large number of women enrolled part-time. More than one-half of the increase in the number of women at the undergraduate level during the 1970-71 to 1982-83 period was accounted

for by part-time students, compared with about one-quarter for men. As a result, in 1982-83, women outnumbered men as part-time undergraduates; however, as full-time undergraduates and full- and part-time graduate students, men were still in the majority (Table 2).

Almost one-half (45%) of women were enrolled part-time at the undergraduate level in 1982-83, compared with 31% of men. The difference between women and men studying part-time at the graduate level was not as great as at the undergraduate level: 43% of women graduate students were part-time compared with 38% of men.

The changing sex distribution of university students is also reflected in the steep rise in the enrolment rate of women. Enrolment rates express the number of students as a percentage of the age group usually enrolled at a particular level. For example, as a percentage of the female population aged 18-21, the number of women enrolled full-time at the undergraduate level rose from 13% in 1970-71 to 19% in 1982-83 (Table 3). By contrast, the rate for men peaked in 1971-72, and was actually lower in 1982-83 than it had

been at the beginning of the period. Still, the full-time enrolment rate for men in 1982-83 was almost 2 percentage points greater than that of women, although the gap has grown smaller each year.

Among part-time undergraduates, the enrolment rate of women (as a percentage of

the 25-39 age group, the ages most commonly associated with part-time studies) has risen steadily and now exceeds that of men. By 1982-83 the rate for women stood at 5% compared with 3% for men. This is almost a reversal of the 1970-71 situation when the corresponding part-time

enrolment rates were 3% for women and 4% for men.

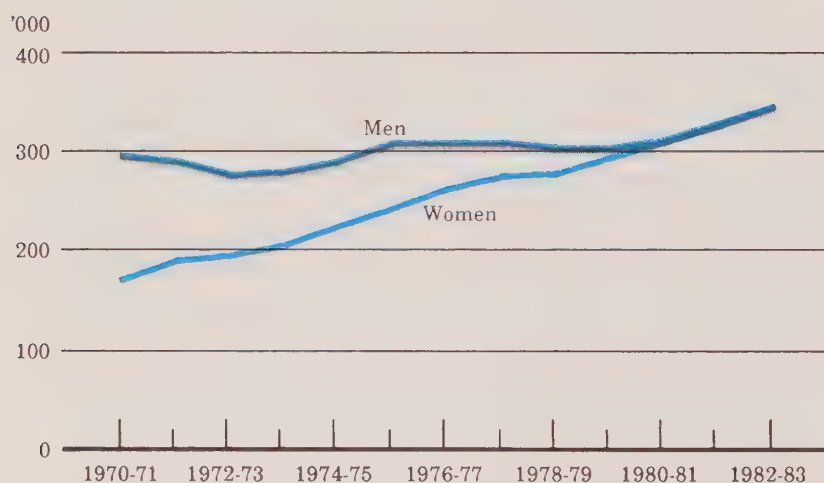
At the graduate level, men's enrolment rates were higher than those of women in 1982-83, but women were gaining ground, in both full- and part-time studies.

### University Graduation:

Given the shift in the sex distribution of university enrolment, it follows that a growing proportion of those receiving degrees are women. The more advanced the degree, however, the smaller the percentage of women. In 1982, women received 51% of bachelor's degrees, 40% of master's degrees, and 25% of doctorates. The corresponding percentages in 1971 were 38%, 22%, and 9%.

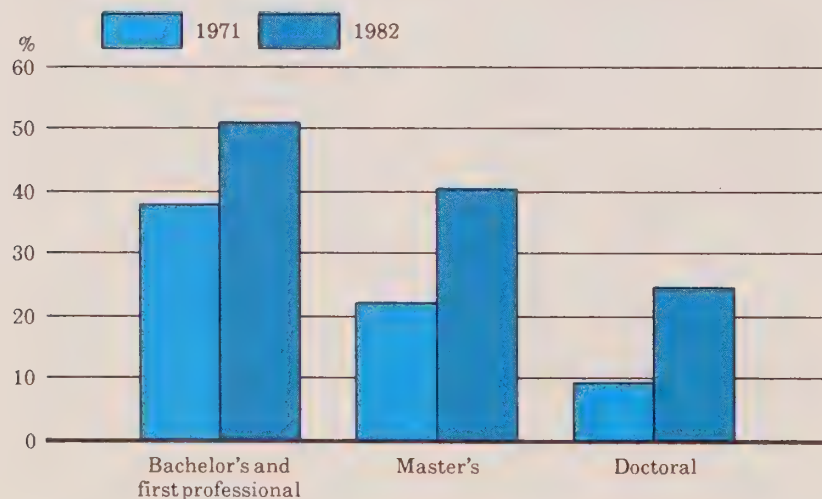
Although more women are earning degrees, they remain concentrated in traditional female fields of study including education, fine and applied arts, humanities, nursing and some of the social sciences<sup>1</sup> such as psychology, sociology and social work. To some extent, though, the concentration of women in these specialties is diminishing. In 1982, these traditional fields accounted for 62% of all women graduates at the bachelor's level, down from 70% in 1971 (Table 4). These programs represented only 33% of male graduates in 1982, a drop from 43% in 1971. Women have made some inroads into male-dominated areas. Between 1971 and 1982, the percentage of all Bachelor of Commerce degrees earned by women rose from 6% to 34%, and the percentage of law graduates who were women went from 9% to 38%. Another discipline in which the female component has increased is medicine: in 1971, 13% of those who earned

**Figure 1** University Enrolment, 1970-71 to 1982-83



Source: Table 1

**Figure 2** Women as a Percentage of University Graduates, 1971 and 1982



Source: Tables 4, 5 and 6

<sup>1</sup> Commerce, economics and law are classified as social sciences; however, they are examined separately since they are considered "traditionally male" disciplines.

an M.D. were women, compared with 36% by 1982.

At the master's level, the trends are similar. Traditional female fields (excluding nursing) accounted for 72% of women earning degrees in 1971, down from 83% in 1971 (Table 5). By contrast, the percentage of men receiving master's degrees in these programs remained stable at around 45%.

Because until recently so few women enrolled in master's programs of any kind, men dominated in virtually all fields. In 1971, for example, women were the majority only in fine and applied arts. However, by 1982, they were earning more master's degrees than men in education, humanities, and medical and health professions, as well as in fine and applied arts. Also, the proportion of women graduating from traditionally male disciplines is increasing. The percentage of master's

degrees in commerce awarded to women rose from 1% to 26%, and the percentage in economics went from 8% to 23% (Table 5).

Few Canadians earn doctorates, and most who do are men: however, the number of women Ph.D.'s is growing. In 1982, 423 women became Ph.D.'s, almost triple the 1971 figure. On the other hand, the total awarded to men declined from 1,474 to 1,290 (Table 6).

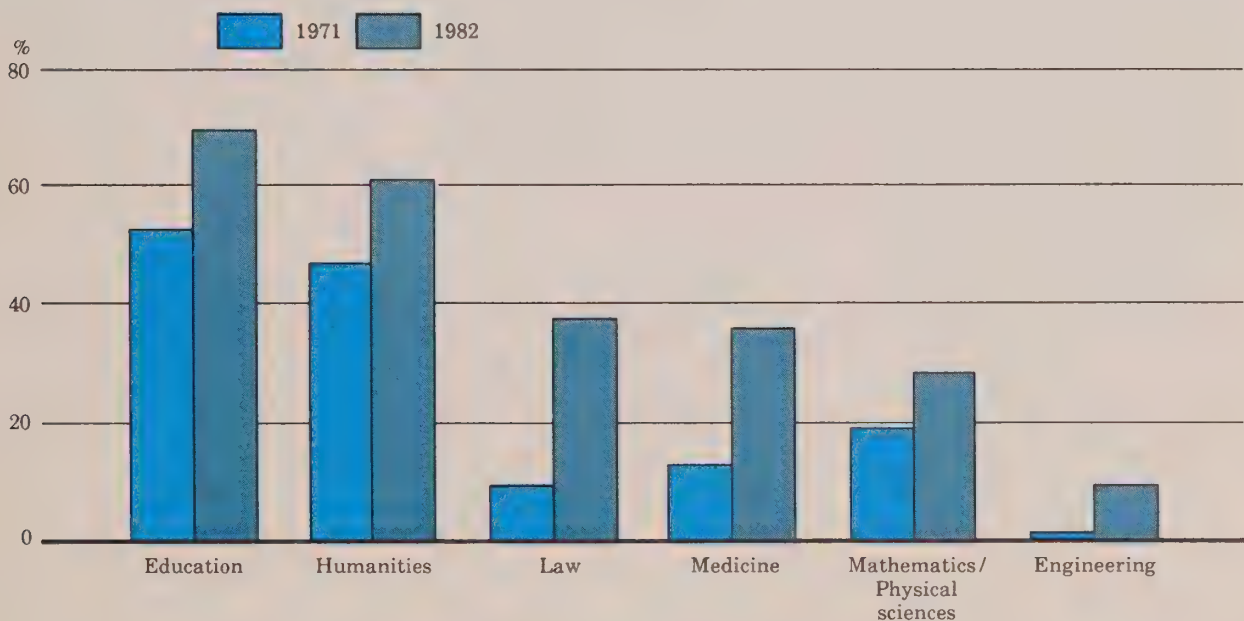
Although there is no field of study in which women earn more doctorates than men, the proportion of women graduates has increased in all fields. For example, in 1982 women accounted for 43% of education graduates, up from less than 7% in 1971. Over the same period, the percentage in agriculture and biological sciences increased from 9% to 23%.

At all three levels of degree, engineering and applied sciences, and mathematics

and physical sciences are the fields of study with the lowest percentage of women graduates. For example, in 1982-83, the percentage of engineering degree recipients who were women ranged from 9% at the bachelor's and master's level to 4% at the doctoral level. In mathematics and physical sciences, women make up 29% of graduates at the bachelor's level, 20% of master's graduates and 11% of doctorate recipients. The proportion of women graduating in these programs, however, has been growing at all three levels since 1970-71.

**Community College Enrolment and Graduation:** Patterns of enrolment and graduation for community colleges are similar to those at universities. In 1970-71 more men than women were enrolled full-time<sup>2</sup>, but the number of female students has been growing at a faster pace than

**Figure 3** Women as a Percentage of Bachelor's and First Professional Degree Recipients by Selected Fields of Study, 1971 and 1982



Source: Table 4

<sup>2</sup> No data are available on part-time community college students.



the number of men, with the result that in 1982-83, 52% of full-time community college students were women (Table 7).

Enrolment rates (calculated as a percentage of the 18-21 age group) tell the same story. At the beginning of the period, the rate for women was slightly below that for men: 10% versus 11%. By 1982-83, women's enrolment rate was 16%, compared with 15% for men.

As in university, the majority of women earn their diplomas and certificates in traditional fields of study, although the percentage is declining. Between 1976 and 1982 the percentage of women graduating in arts, secretarial science, community and social services, education, and nursing fell from 74% to 63% (Table 8). However, the reason for this decline was the sharp drop in nursing graduates; in fact, the female component in the other areas, with the exception of education, actually increased.

At the same time, the percentage of women graduating from male-dominated fields such as business (other than secretarial science), natural resources and engineering is growing. In 1982, for example, 55% of non-secretarial business graduates were women compared with 41% in 1976. In the natural resources, the increase was from 19% to 29% while the percentage of women graduating in engineering grew from 5% to 9%. Women, however, have made only small gains in the technologies: the percentage of female graduates increased only from 9% to 10% in the 1976-1982 period.

#### **Educational Attainment:**

Because of the greater participation of women in postsec-

dary education, their overall level of education is improving. However, the percentage of women with higher educational attainment still remains somewhat below that of men. It is important to note also, that the majority of both women and men have high school education or less - 72% of women and 70% of men (Table 9).

In 1983, 8% of women 15 years and older were university graduates, a considerable increase from 3% in 1971; for men, the corresponding percentages were 11% in 1983 and 6% in 1971. However, since the real upswing for women graduating from university took place only in the last few years, the narrowing of the education gap is more pronounced among 25-34 year-olds. In 1971, 5% of women in this age range were degree-holders compared with 11% of men (Table 10). By 1983, the percentage for women had risen to 14%, compared to 17% for men. Between 1971 and 1983, the number of women aged 25-34 who were university graduates increased four-fold, while the number of men with degrees rose at only about half that rate. Consequently, by 1983, 46% of all 25-34 year-olds who had a degree were women, compared with 31% in 1971.

#### **Work, Unemployment and**

**Earnings:** The higher an individual's level of education, the greater the chance of that person being part of the labour force. This is especially true for women. In 1983, women with a university degree were three times more likely to be in the labour force than women with elementary school education - 76% compared with 26% (Table 11). Among men, 91% of men with a degree and 58% with less than grade 9 were in the

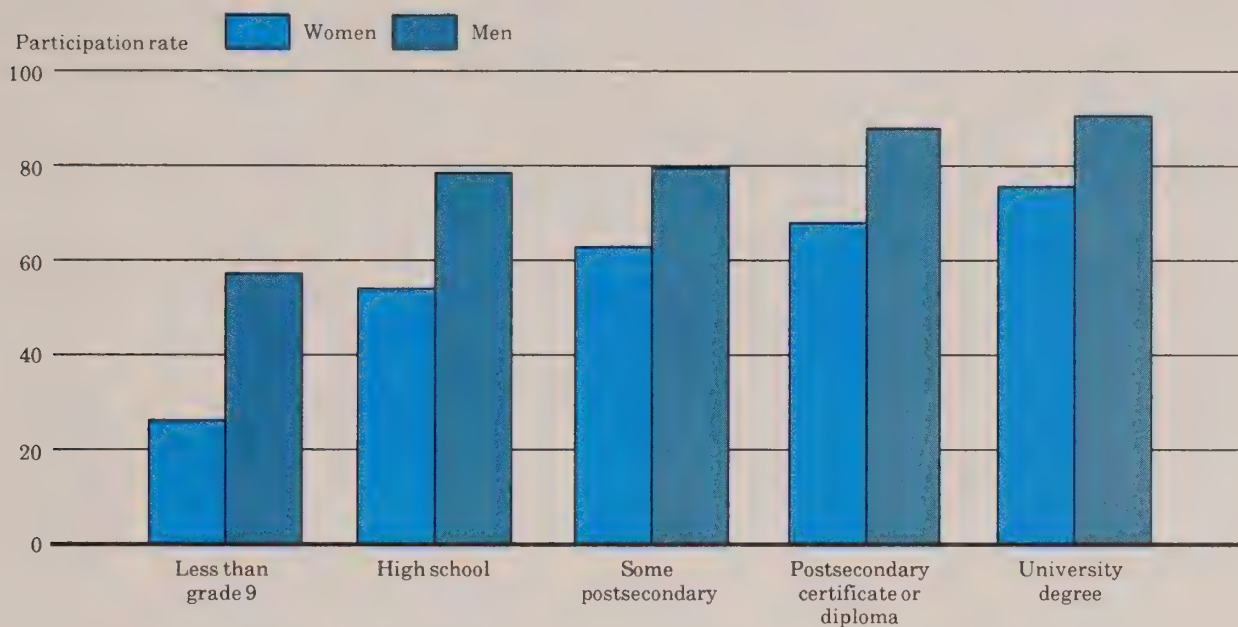
labour force.

As well, between 1975 and 1983, the largest increases in labour force participation were among women with postsecondary experience. For example, over three-quarters of women with a university education were in the work force in 1983, compared with two-thirds in 1975. The participation rate for women with less than grade 9 education on the other hand, increased only marginally between 1975 and 1983. The continued low participation of poorly educated women is due in large part to the fact that many are in the older age groups, for whom lifelong participation in the labour force has not been the norm. Over this period, the participation rate for men at all levels of education remained relatively stable with the exception of those with less than grade 9. Labour force participation in this group declined by almost 10 percentage points.

At the same time, people with a university degree are far less likely to be unemployed. In 1983, the unemployment rate for women with a university degree was less than half that of women with less than grade 9 education - 6% compared with 13% (Table 12). That year, however, women with a university degree were the only group of women whose unemployment rate was higher than that of their male counterparts. On the other hand, women with a university degree were also the only group of women or men that experienced a decline in unemployment in 1983.

Education levels also influence earnings. The average earnings of women are well below those of men at all education levels; however, women's earnings as a



**Figure 4** Labour Force Participation Rate by Educational Attainment, 1983

Source: Table 11

percentage of men's are higher for those with postsecondary experience than for those without any university or community college training (Table 13). Still, women with a university education who work full-time have earnings which

are only 67% of male university graduates. And in terms of actual dollars, women with a university degree have earnings which are only \$1,600 a year more than the earnings of men with only high school experience.

Table 1 University Enrolment by Level, 1970-71 to 1982-83

	Undergraduate			Graduate			Total	
	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men
	No.	No.		No.	No.		No.	No.
1970-71	161,675	256,828	38.6	10,819	36,723	22.8	172,494	293,551
1971-72	173,118	251,358	40.8	12,460	41,477	23.1	185,578	292,835
1972-73	179,717	237,680	43.1	14,436	43,552	24.9	194,153	281,232
1973-74	191,059	241,571	44.2	16,077	44,581	26.5	207,136	286,152
1974-75	206,912	248,048	45.5	17,370	44,905	27.9	224,282	292,953
1975-76	226,134	262,997	46.2	19,719	47,120	29.5	245,853	310,117
1976-77	238,904	259,927	47.9	21,493	47,139	31.3	260,397	307,066
1977-78	254,089	262,161	49.2	23,014	46,613	33.1	277,103	308,774
1978-79	256,005	257,226	49.9	24,474	46,629	34.4	280,479	303,855
1979-80	268,318	260,525	50.7	26,060	46,322	36.0	294,378	306,847
1980-81	283,573	267,335	51.5	28,568	48,269	37.2	312,141	315,604
1981-82	297,068	277,144	51.7	30,760	48,789	38.7	327,828	325,933
1982-83	317,353	291,914	52.1	32,987	50,515	39.5	350,340	342,429

Sources: *Education in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 81-229.

Education, Culture and Tourism Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 2** Full-time and Part-time University Enrolment, 1970-71 to 1982-83

Undergraduate						
	Full-time			Part-time		
	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total
	No.	No.		No.	No.	
1970-71	101,352	174,945	36.7	60,323	81,883	42.4
1971-72	108,276	178,842	37.7	64,842	72,516	47.2
1972-73	109,736	175,161	38.5	69,981	62,519	52.8
1973-74	116,765	178,211	39.6	74,294	63,360	54.0
1974-75	127,120	182,051	41.1	79,792	65,997	54.7
1975-76	140,127	190,710	42.4	86,007	72,287	54.3
1976-77	146,662	188,897	43.7	92,242	71,030	56.5
1977-78	147,994	185,195	44.4	106,095	76,966	58.0
1978-79	146,789	179,751	45.0	109,216	77,475	58.5
1980-81	155,553	182,362	46.0	128,020	84,973	60.1
1981-82	165,520	189,229	46.7	131,548	87,915	60.0
1982-83	176,085	200,131	46.8	141,268	91,783	60.6
Graduate						
	Full-time			Part-time		
	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total
	No.	No.		No.	No.	
1970-71	7,407	25,765	22.3	3,412	10,958	23.7
1971-72	8,124	27,784	22.6	4,336	13,693	24.1
1972-73	9,120	28,387	24.3	5,316	15,165	26.0
1973-74	9,661	27,487	26.0	6,416	17,094	27.3
1974-75	10,334	27,481	27.3	7,036	17,424	28.8
1975-76	11,637	28,242	29.2	8,082	18,878	30.0
1976-77	12,498	28,449	30.5	8,995	18,690	32.5
1977-78	13,041	27,955	31.8	9,973	18,658	34.8
1978-79	13,780	27,673	33.2	10,694	18,956	36.1
1979-80	14,745	27,023	35.3	11,315	19,299	37.0
1980-81	16,120	28,582	36.1	12,448	19,687	38.7
1981-82	17,591	29,568	37.3	13,169	19,221	40.7
1982-83	18,890	31,283	37.6	14,097	19,232	42.3

**Sources:** *Education in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 81-229.  
 Education, Culture and Tourism Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 3** University Enrolment Rates, 1970-71 to 1982-83

	Undergraduate			
	Full-time <sup>1</sup>		Part-time <sup>2</sup>	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%
1970-71	13.0	22.2	3.0	4.0
1971-72	14.1	22.9	3.2	3.4
1972-73	13.8	21.7	3.3	2.9
1973-74	14.2	21.3	3.4	2.8
1974-75	14.9	21.0	3.5	2.8
1975-76	16.0	21.4	3.6	3.0
1976-77	16.4	20.7	3.8	2.8
1977-78	16.4	20.1	4.2	3.0
1978-79	16.0	19.2	4.1	2.9
1979-80	16.1	18.9	4.4	2.9
1980-81	16.6	19.1	4.5	3.0
1981-82	17.6	19.6	4.5	3.0
1982-83	18.7	20.6	4.6	3.0
	Graduate			
	Full-time <sup>3</sup>		Part-time <sup>4</sup>	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%
1970-71	1.4	4.9	0.2	0.5
1971-72	1.4	4.9	0.2	0.7
1972-73	1.6	5.0	0.3	0.7
1973-74	1.7	4.8	0.3	0.8
1974-75	1.8	4.7	0.3	0.8
1975-76	1.9	4.7	0.3	0.8
1976-77	2.0	4.6	0.4	0.7
1977-78	2.0	4.3	0.4	0.7
1978-79	2.1	4.2	0.4	0.7
1979-80	2.2	4.0	0.4	0.7
1980-81	2.4	4.2	0.4	0.7
1981-82	2.5	4.3	0.5	0.7
1982-83	2.7	4.4	0.5	0.6

<sup>1</sup> Full-time undergraduate enrolment as a % of population aged 18-21.<sup>2</sup> Part-time undergraduate enrolment as a % of population aged 25-39.<sup>3</sup> Full-time graduate enrolment as a % of population aged 22-24.<sup>4</sup> Part-time graduate enrolment as a % of population aged 25-39.

**Sources:** *Education in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 81-229.  
 Education, Culture and Tourism Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.



Table 4 Bachelor's and First Professional Degrees Granted by Field of Study, 1971 and 1982

Field of Study	Total Graduates						Percentage Distribution					
	1971			1982			1971			1982		
	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	No.	No.		No.	No.		%	%	%	%	%	%
Education	8,129	7,277	52.8	11,309	4,855	70.0	31.9	17.5	25.5	11.4		
Fine and applied arts	639	526	54.8	1,770	993	64.1	2.5	1.3	4.0	2.3		
Humanities	4,137	4,658	47.0	5,339	3,342	61.5	16.3	11.2	12.0	7.8		
Social sciences	4,238	12,081	26.0	13,099	15,679	45.5	16.7	29.1	29.5	36.7		
Commerce	215	3,229	6.2	3,534	6,810	34.2	0.8	7.8	8.0	15.9		
Economics	131	1,620	7.5	808	2,035	28.4	0.5	3.9	1.8	4.8		
Law	183	1,775	9.3	1,166	1,937	37.6	0.5	4.3	2.6	4.5		
Agriculture and biological sciences	1,214	1,886	39.2	2,614	2,366	52.5	4.8	4.5	5.9	5.5		
Engineering and applied sciences	51	4,375	1.2	666	6,522	9.3	0.2	10.5	1.5	15.3		
Medical and health professions	1,842	1,945	48.6	3,784	2,269	62.5	7.2	4.7	8.5	5.3		
Dentistry	16	353	4.3	95	385	19.8	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.9		
Medicine	145	991	12.8	691	1,219	36.2	0.6	2.4	1.6	2.9		
Nursing	1,221	37	97.1	1,573	47	97.1	4.8	0.1	3.5	0.1		
Mathematics and physical sciences	751	3,119	19.4	1,387	3,485	28.5	3.0	7.5	3.1	8.2		
Computer	76	284	21.1	423	1,177	26.4	0.3	0.7	1.0	2.8		
No specialization	4,449	5,634	44.1	4,429	3,266	57.6	17.5	13.6	10.0	7.6		
Total	25,450	41,501	38.0	44,397	42,777	50.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		

Source: Education, Culture and Tourism Division, Statistics Canada, special updated tabulations.

**Table 5** Master's Degrees Granted by Field of Study, 1971 and 1982

Field of Study	Total Graduates				Percentage Distribution			
	1971		1982		1971		1982	
	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	No.	No.		No.	%	%	%	%
Education	395	1,033	27.7	1,501	18.7	13.8	28.4	17.5
Fine and applied arts	44	40	52.4	141	2.1	0.5	2.7	1.5
Humanities	742	1,275	36.8	1,048	35.1	17.0	19.8	10.2
Social sciences	622	2,507	19.9	1,757	29.4	33.5	33.2	40.9
Commerce	15	1,022	1.4	550	0.7	13.6	10.4	20.6
Economics	25	298	7.7	90	1.2	4.0	1.7	3.8
Law	3	30	9.1	22	0.1	0.4	0.4	1.2
Agriculture and biological sciences	123	442	21.8	239	5.8	5.9	4.5	5.0
Engineering and applied sciences	12	1,171	1.0	100	0.6	15.6	1.9	13.8
Medical and health professions	85	172	33.1	347	4.0	2.3	6.6	3.1
Mathematics and physical sciences	93	853	9.8	154	4.4	11.4	2.9	8.1
Computer	12	116	9.4	34	0.6	1.6	0.6	2.0
Total <sup>1</sup>	2,116	7,493	22.0	5,290	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes "No specialization".**Source:** Education, Culture and Tourism Division, Statistics Canada, special updated tabulations.

**Table 6** Doctoral Degrees Granted by Field of Study, 1971 and 1982

Field of Study	Total Graduates				Percentage Distribution					
	1971		1982		1971		1982			
	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men	Women	Men
	No.	No.		No.	No.		%	%	%	%
Education	5	72	6.5	91	122	42.7	3.3	4.9	21.5	9.5
Fine and applied arts	1	5	16.7	4	8	33.3	0.1	0.3	1.0	0.6
Humanities	38	142	21.1	80	152	34.5	25.2	9.7	18.9	11.8
Social sciences	38	190	16.7	111	267	29.4	25.2	12.9	26.2	20.7
Commerce	-	4	-	1	17	5.6	-	0.3	0.2	1.3
Economics	2	23	8.0	8	49	14.0	1.3	1.6	1.9	3.8
Law	2	13	13.3	-	3	-	1.3	0.9	-	0.2
Agriculture and biological sciences	25	261	8.7	51	170	23.1	16.6	17.7	12.1	13.2
Engineering and applied sciences	-	234	-	8	175	4.4	-	15.9	1.9	13.6
Medical and health professions	9	84	9.7	38	113	25.2	6.0	5.7	9.0	8.8
Mathematics and physical sciences	35	486	6.7	36	281	11.4	23.2	33.0	8.5	21.8
Total <sup>1</sup>	151	1,474	9.3	423	1,290	24.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes "No specialization".

- Nil.

**Source:** Education, Culture and Tourism Division, Statistics Canada, special updated tabulations.

**Table 7** Full-time Community College Enrolment, 1970-71 to 1982-83

	Enrolment			Enrolment Rates <sup>1</sup>	
	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men
	No.	No.		%	%
1970-71	77,862	88,217	46.9	10.0	10.6
1971-72	79,708	94,071	45.9	10.3	12.0
1972-73	89,216	101,738	46.7	11.2	12.6
1973-74	94,536	106,915	46.9	11.5	12.8
1974-75	103,545	107,660	49.0	12.1	12.4
1975-76	109,829	111,765	49.6	12.5	12.6
1976-77	114,011	112,150	50.4	12.8	12.3
1977-78	122,360	119,305	50.6	13.5	12.9
1978-79	126,076	123,692	50.5	13.7	13.2
1979-80	128,169	123,977	50.8	13.8	13.1
1980-81	133,073	127,754	51.0	14.2	13.4
1981-82	140,874	132,524	51.5	15.0	13.8
1982-83	152,459	143,021	51.6	16.0	14.9

<sup>1</sup> Enrolment as a % of population aged 18-21.

**Sources:** *Education in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 81-229.

Education, Culture and Tourism Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 8** Community College Graduates by Field of Study, 1976 and 1982

Field of Study	Total Graduates				Percentage Distribution							
	1976		1982		1976		1976		1982		1982	
	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	No.	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	No.	Women	Men	Women	Men
	No.	No.			No.	No.			%	%	%	%
Arts	1,768	1,338	56.9	3,321	1,883		63.8		7.7	8.8	11.5	8.9
Business	5,182	3,502	59.7	10,113	5,321		65.5		22.5	23.0	35.0	25.2
Secretarial	2,820	30	98.9	3,596	10		99.7		12.2	0.2	12.4	0.0
Community and social services	4,018	1,418	73.9	5,065	1,626		75.7		17.4	9.3	17.5	7.7
Education	130	30	81.2	82	19		81.2		0.6	0.2	0.3	0.1
Engineering	179	3,249	5.2	518	5,085		9.2		0.8	21.3	1.8	24.1
Medical sciences	10,847	895	92.4	8,409	1,105		88.4		47.0	5.9	29.1	5.2
Nursing	8,323	276	96.8	6,150	335		94.8		36.1	1.8	21.3	1.6
Natural resources	382	1,636	18.9	870	2,161		28.7		1.7	10.7	3.0	10.2
Technologies	226	2,327	8.9	362	3,264		10.0		1.0	15.3	1.3	15.5
Transport	5	248	2.0	7	272		2.5		0.0	1.6	0.0	1.3
Other	123	270	31.3	149	293		33.7		0.5	1.8	0.5	1.4
Total <sup>1</sup>	23,082	15,252	61.3	28,909	21,091		57.9		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes "Not reported".Sources: *Enrolment in Community Colleges*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 81-222.  
Education, Culture and Tourism Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.



**Table 9** Educational Attainment of the Population Aged 15 and Over, 1971-1983

	1971	1976	1981	1983
	%	%	%	%
Educational attainment				
Less than grade 9				
Women	32.2	24.9	21.9	20.4
Men	34.8	26.3	23.0	21.3
High school <sup>1</sup>				
Women	51.2	50.5	53.1	51.7
Men	45.6	45.7	49.3	48.5
Some postsecondary				
Women	6.7	8.2	7.5	8.3
Men	8.4	10.0	8.3	9.0
Postsecondary certificate or diploma				
Women	7.1	11.4	11.1	11.9
Men	5.0	8.8	9.0	9.9
University degree				
Women	2.9	5.0	6.5	7.7
Men	6.2	9.2	10.5	11.3
Total				
Women	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population 000's				
Women	7,655	8,494	9,376	9,662
Men	7,532	8,207	8,999	9,255

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons who have either completed or attended high school.

**Sources:** Labour Force Survey Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

*The Educational Profile of Canadians, 1961 to 2000*, G. Picot, Statistics Canada, March 1980.

**Table 10** Educational Attainment of the Population Aged 25 to 34, 1971-1983

	1971	1976	1981	1983
	%	%	%	%
Educational attainment				
Less than grade 9				
Women	22.5	13.8	8.6	6.9
Men	24.3	14.2	8.7	7.2
High school <sup>1</sup>				
Women	54.2	50.7	54.0	52.4
Men	47.5	42.3	48.2	49.1
Some postsecondary				
Women	8.6	8.4	8.8	9.7
Men	10.5	11.7	11.1	11.2
Postsecondary certificate or diploma				
Women	9.7	17.0	16.0	16.8
Men	7.0	14.5	14.4	15.4
University degree				
Women	4.9	10.1	12.5	14.1
Men	10.8	17.2	17.5	17.1
Total				
Women	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population 000's				
Women	1,428	1,783	2,082	2,156
Men	1,462	1,778	2,050	2,116

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons who have either completed or attended high school.

**Sources:** Labour Force Survey Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.  
*The Educational Profile of Canadians, 1961 to 2000*, G. Picot, Statistics Canada, March 1980.

Table 11 Labour Force Participation Rate by Educational Attainment, 1975-1983

Less than Grade 9			High School <sup>1</sup>			Some Post- secondary			Postsecondary Certificate or Diploma			University Degree			Total	
Women		Men	Women		Men	Women		Men	Women		Men	Women		Men	Women	Men
%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	%
1975	25.2	67.2	47.2	80.1	53.1	78.4	59.2	90.0	66.4	91.0	44.4	78.4				
1976	25.5	65.1	47.9	79.7	54.0	78.5	59.8	89.3	67.0	90.6	45.2	77.6				
1977	25.3	64.0	48.4	79.9	56.8	79.7	60.6	89.2	68.1	91.0	46.0	77.7				
1978	26.0	63.9	50.7	80.4	59.6	80.2	61.4	89.5	71.4	91.1	47.9	78.1				
1979	26.6	63.1	52.2	81.3	59.9	81.1	62.8	89.3	70.7	91.4	49.0	78.5				
1980	25.9	61.8	53.5	81.1	61.8	81.2	65.5	90.0	72.3	91.7	50.4	78.4				
1981	26.8	61.3	54.6	81.1	62.4	80.9	67.0	89.5	74.2	91.7	51.7	78.4				
1982	25.6	58.5	54.1	79.3	63.2	79.8	67.5	89.2	74.5	90.9	51.7	77.0				
1983	26.4	57.6	54.2	78.9	63.4	79.6	68.1	88.3	75.8	90.9	52.6	76.7				

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons who have either completed or attended high school.

Source: *Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975-1983*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-529.

Table 12 Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment, 1975-1983

	Less than Grade 9		High School <sup>1</sup>		Some Post- secondary		Postsecondary Certificate or Diploma		University Degree		Total	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1975	10.0	7.6	9.1	7.2	7.4	5.8	5.2	3.6	4.9	2.2	8.1	6.2
1976	9.1	7.4	9.4	7.3	7.8	5.5	6.0	4.5	5.4	2.3	8.4	6.3
1977	11.0	8.8	10.6	8.4	9.0	6.6	6.4	4.3	5.1	2.7	9.4	7.3
1978	11.2	9.0	10.6	8.6	9.1	7.0	7.2	4.6	5.8	2.9	9.6	7.5
1979	10.0	8.3	9.7	7.5	8.3	5.5	6.1	4.2	5.1	2.4	8.8	6.6
1980	10.1	8.6	9.3	8.0	7.8	5.5	5.6	4.4	4.8	2.2	8.4	6.9
1981	9.9	8.8	9.4	8.2	7.6	6.0	5.7	4.2	4.7	2.4	8.3	7.0
1982	13.1	13.5	12.2	13.0	10.4	9.7	7.5	7.5	6.6	4.0	10.9	11.1
1983	13.1	13.6	13.4	14.3	11.6	11.9	8.6	9.2	5.9	4.7	11.6	12.1

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons who have either completed or attended high school.

Source: *Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975-1983*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-529.

**Table 13** Average Annual Earnings of Full-time Workers by Educational Attainment, 1971 and 1982

	Earnings of Full-time Workers <sup>1</sup>					
	1971			1982		
	Women	Men	Women's Earnings as a % of Men's	Women	Men	Women's Earnings as a % of Men's
	\$	\$		\$	\$	
Educational attainment						
Less than grade 9	3,732	6,722	55.5	11,804	20,073	58.8
High school <sup>2</sup>	4,734	8,332	56.8	14,087	22,778	61.8
Some postsecondary	5,903	9,955	59.3	16,577	24,662	67.2
Postsecondary certificate or diploma	6,569	9,813	66.9	17,607	26,123	67.4
University degree	9,541	15,589	61.2	24,380	36,266	67.2
Total	5,232	8,770	59.7	16,056	25,096	64.0

<sup>1</sup> A full-time worker is a person who worked, mostly full-time, 50-52 weeks in 1971 and 49-52 weeks in 1982.

<sup>2</sup> Includes persons who have either completed or attended high school.

**Source:** *Earnings of Men and Women*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-577.



# WOMEN IN THE LABOUR FORCE

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Perhaps the single most dramatic development in the situation of women since 1970 has been their influx into the labour force. The number of women engaging in some form of paid work almost doubled between 1970 and 1983, and by the early 1980s, more than half of women aged 15 and over held jobs outside their homes. As well, this growth of the female labour force continued even through the period of difficult economic times in the early part of the 1980s. But while many more women have jobs, the circumstances of their working lives have not changed as radically. Working women remain concentrated in relatively low-paying service and clerical occupations, many of which are part-time. And while women's earnings relative to those of men increased, the wage gap is still wide.

**Labour Force Participation<sup>1</sup>:** Between 1970 and 1983, the number of women in the labour force rose by 2.3 million and the participation rate<sup>2</sup> of women increased from 38% to 53% (Table 1). During the same period, the number of men in the labour force increased by only 1.5 million and the male participation rate actually declined slightly. As

a result, in 1983, women constituted 42% of the total labour force, up from 34% in 1970.

Women's labour force participation continued to grow, although at a reduced pace, during the period of economic slowdown in the early 1980s. Between 1981 and 1983, the female labour force grew by 233,000, over five times the increase recorded for the male labour force. And while women's participation rate went up by almost one percentage point during this period, that of men declined by nearly two percentage points.

Between 1975 and 1983, labour force participation rates increased for women of all ages except those 65 and over (Table 2). The largest increases were among those in the 25-54 age range; participation was up 15 percentage points for women aged 25-34 and 35-44 and 12 percentage points among those aged 45-54. For women aged 20-24 the increase was seven percentage points, and for women 15-19 and 55-64, the increases were less than five percentage points. In contrast, labour force participation rates declined for men in all age groups.

The working life patterns of men and women, however,

remain quite distinct. In 1983, for example, labour force participation among women was highest for those aged 20-24 and declined for each successive age group. On the other hand, participation among men was highest in the 35-44 age range, and there was little variation in labour force participation rates of men aged 25-54. As well, the gap between the labour force participation rates of women and men widens with age. Among 15-19 year-olds, only 2.8 percentage points separate the rates of men and women; for people aged 55-64 the difference is almost 40 percentage points. Older women, however, belong to a generation in which only a small proportion ever held jobs outside their homes. Because labour force participation has increased for women in their twenties and thirties, it is likely that the magnitude of age differences in labour force participation rates will narrow in the future.

These differences in employment patterns no doubt reflect the fact that family and child care responsibilities affect women's working lives far more than those of men, although the impact of these variables may be declining. As indicated in

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<sup>1</sup> People are considered to be in the labour force if they are employed (have a job) or are unemployed (actively seeking a job, expecting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or are about to report to a job).

<sup>2</sup> Participation rates are the number of individuals in the labour force expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 and over.

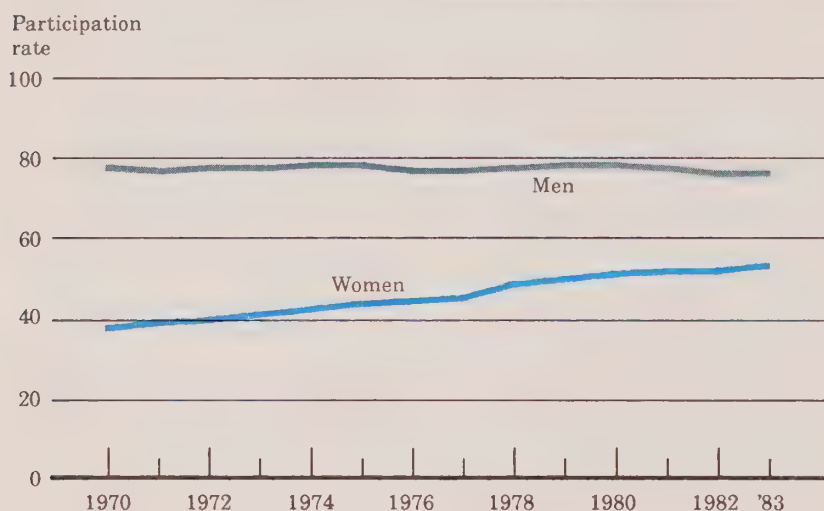
Section I, although women who are married and those with young children have lower labour force participation rates than other women, the 1975-1983 period saw particularly large increases in the participation rates of married women and women with children.

This phenomenon is

further illustrated when the labour force participation rates of women with children and a husband living at home are compared with those of women with children and no husband at home (Table 3). For both groups of women, labour force participation increased between 1975 and 1983. As

well, labour force participation of women without husbands at home was generally higher than that of women with a husband at home. However, the participation rate of lone mothers with pre-school children declined between 1980 and 1983, while that of women with a husband at home continued to rise. As a result, by 1983 the labour force participation rate of lone women with pre-school children was lower than that of women with very young children and a husband at home.

**Figure 1** Labour Force Participation Rate, 1970-1983



Source: Table 1

**Figure 2** Employment by Industry, 1975, 1981 and 1983



Source: Table 4

**Industry:** Part of the increased labour force participation of women reflects changes in the nature of Canada's economy. Growth in employment has been much slower in the manufacturing and other goods-producing industries, industries in which male workers predominate, than in the more female-oriented service sector. Between 1975 and 1981, for example, total employment in the goods-producing industries increased by 403,000; in comparison, total service sector employment increased by more than 1.3 million. As well, the recession in the early 1980s had a greater impact on goods-producing industries than on the service sector. Between 1981 and 1983, employment in the service sector grew by 101,000 while the goods-producing sector declined by 371,000 jobs (Table 4).

Women claimed almost one million of the 1.4 million new jobs generated in the service sector between 1975 and 1983, and they accounted for 89% of the increase in service sector employment in the 1981-1983 period. As a result, by 1983, half of all service sector workers were women, up from 45% in 1975. As well,



83% of all employed women were in this sector compared with 61% of male workers.

Within the service sector, most women are employed in community, business or personal service industries (Table 5). In fact, in 1983, these industries accounted for 46% of all employed women. As well, the majority of workers, about six in ten, in these industries were women. Women also made up close to 60% of those employed in finance, insurance and real estate. However, women were underrepresented in the other service industries: they made up only 43% of those in trade, 37% in public administration and just 24% in transportation, communications and other utilities.

Expectations of continued growth in the service industries have positive and negative implications for women. On the plus side, given that the shift toward service sector employment is likely to continue for some time, women's labour force participation should also continue to increase in the future. On the other hand, many service sector jobs are part-time, low-paying, and offer few fringe benefits and little potential for promotion or career advancement.

Women have also increased their share of jobs in the goods-producing industries. The total number of women working in this sector rose by 134,000 between 1975 and 1983, while male employment fell by 102,000 (Table 4). As a result, the proportion of jobs in this sector held by women increased from 20% in 1975 to 24% in 1983. There was, however, a decrease in the number of women employed in this sector between 1981 and 1983, although the decline was not as sharp as that recorded for men. In 1983, 42,000 fewer

women were employed in the goods-producing industries than in 1981, a decline of 5%. At the same time, male employment fell by 329,000, or 12%.

Women who work in the goods-producing sector of the economy are concentrated in certain traditionally female jobs. Figures calculated from the 1981 Census of Canada (but not included in the tables in this report) indicate that in 1981, 54% of all women employed in non-agricultural, goods-producing industries worked in either the textile, fur and leather, or food and beverage processing industries, industries in which women made up 56% of total employment. In addition, one out of every four of these women, as well as one out of every four new female jobs generated in these industries between 1971 and 1981, was a sewing machine operator.

**Occupation:** Although the number of women with jobs has increased dramatically, most continue to work in occupations in which women have traditionally been the majority. In 1983, 77% of all female employees worked in just five occupational groups – clerical, service, sales, medicine and health, and teaching. This was only a three percentage point drop from what the proportion had been in 1975. By contrast, these occupational groups represented just 34% of employed males in 1983 (Table 6).

As well, the non-professional categories – clerical, service and sales – were the largest of the 'female' occupational groups, accounting for 62% of all female workers in 1983 and 57% of the overall growth in female employment between 1975 and 1983.

The largest concentration of women in the labour force

was in clerical occupations (Table 7). In 1983, almost one out of every three employed women held a clerical position in comparison with just one out of sixteen employed men. The list of the leading occupations of women is further evidence of the dominance of the clerical category (Table 7). Five of the nine largest occupations of women identified in the 1981 Census, including the top two, secretaries and stenographers, and bookkeepers and accounting clerks, were clerical in nature.

In addition, the number of women employed in clerical positions increased substantially between 1971 and 1981, although the types of jobs were changing. The two leading occupations were also the ones that grew the most: almost 200,000 more women were employed as bookkeepers and accounting clerks in 1981 than in 1971, while the ranks of secretaries and stenographers grew by 128,000. Also, the fourth largest occupational group, tellers and cashiers (clerical) was third in terms of growth between 1971 and 1981. Female employment in the other large clerical categories, general office clerks, and typists and clerk-typists, increased at a slower pace than in most other major occupations. There was, however, considerable growth in other types of clerical positions held by women. Growth in the number of receptionists and information clerks, for example, ranked seventh on the list of largest growth occupations, while computer operators ranked eleventh.

While women remain concentrated in traditionally female jobs, they have increased their share of jobs in all occupational groups. Gains were most impressive in the managerial and administrative

category. Between 1975 and 1983, the proportion of employed women who were managers nearly doubled, increasing from 3.4% to 6.1%, and women's share of all managerial positions increased from 19% to 30% (Table 6).

**Unionization:** The disproport-

ionate representation of women and men in the two industrial sectors helps explain higher rates of unionization among men than women. Generally, goods-producing industries are more highly unionized than industries in the service sector. Partly as a result of this, in 1982, only

25% of all paid female employees were unionized compared with 37% of men (Table 8). The large increase in overall labour force participation by women did result in a growth in their share of total union membership from 23% in 1970 to just over 32% in 1982, but the actual proportion of female workers who were unionized rose only from 22% to 25%. The unionization rate for men, though, declined from 40% in 1970 to 37% in 1982.

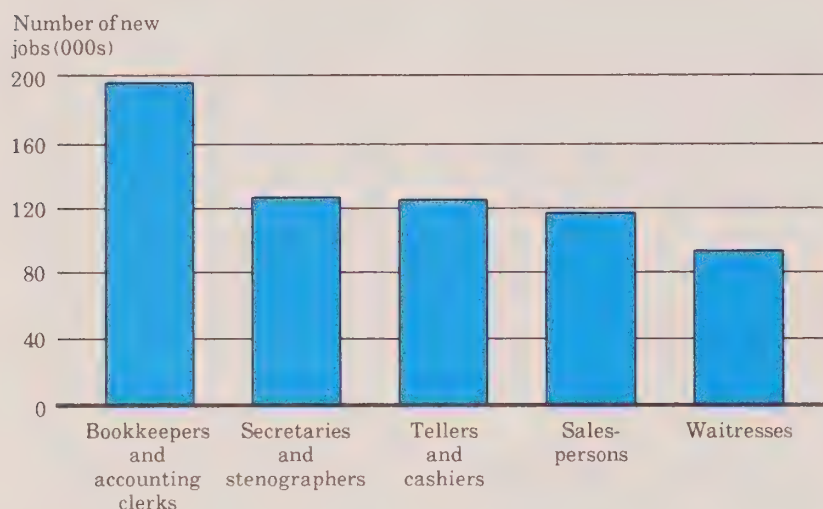
### Part-time Employment:

Much of women's employment is part-time. In 1983, almost 1.2 million Canadian women worked part-time; this represented just over one-quarter of all employed women compared with fewer than 8% of men (Table 9). As well, 44% of the increase in employment of women between 1975 and 1983 was accounted for by part-time positions.

For both women and men, people aged 15-24 and those 65 years and over were most likely to work part-time (Table 10). However, the differences between the incidence of part-time employment among these age categories and those between the ages of 25 and 64 are more marked among men. Just over one-quarter of employed men 15-24 or 65 years and over worked part-time in 1983, while this was the case for fewer than 5% of men in the 25-64 age range. In comparison, while 34% of employed women 15-24 and 44% of those 65 and over worked part-time, roughly 25% of women between the ages of 25 and 64 were part-time employees.

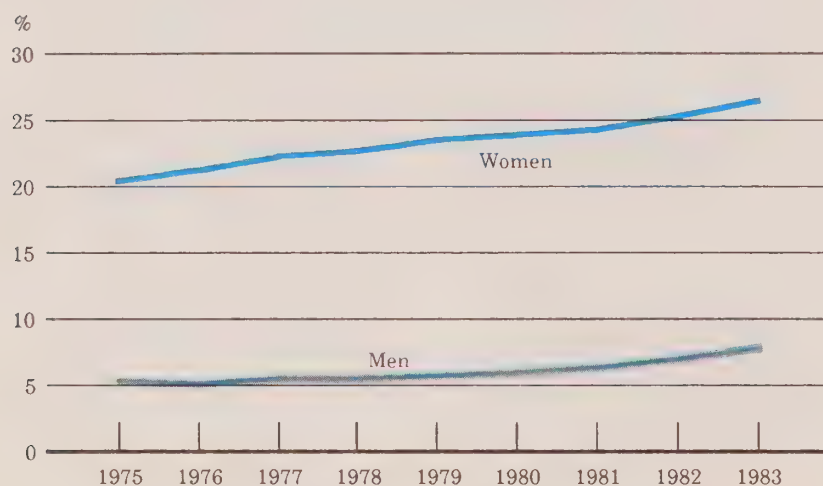
Roughly the same proportion of single as married women were employed

**Figure 3** Largest Growth Occupations of Women, 1971-1981



Source: Table 7

**Figure 4** Proportion of Employed Women and Men Working Part-time, 1975-1983



Source: Table 9



part-time in 1983: 29% for single women compared with 27% of married women (Table 10). In comparison, 22% of single men, but only 3% of married men had part-time jobs. Women with young children and a husband, however, were considerably more likely to work part-time than were women with young children but with no husband at home (Table 11). Among employed women with husbands, 35% with pre-school aged children and 31% whose youngest child was between 6 and 15 worked part-time; for employed women without husbands, only 21% with pre-school children and 17% with children aged 6-15 worked part-time.

In 1983, over half of married women employed part-time reported they did not want full-time work, and another 19% reported they worked part-time because of personal and/or family responsibilities (Table 12). Single men and women who worked part-time, on the other hand, were primarily students.

Still, the number of women who work part-time because they cannot find full-time work is substantial and growing. In 1983, 326,000 women compared with 146,000 men, worked part-time for this reason, and of all women who worked part-time in 1983, 28% did so because they could not find full-time jobs, up from 11% in 1975. As well, women who work part-time because they cannot find other work accounted for 51% of the growth in part-time work among women between 1975 and 1983.

**Unemployment:** Throughout much of the period since 1970, the unemployment rate of women was one to two points higher than that of men. In

1983, however, the overall unemployment rate of men exceeded that for women: 12.1% to 11.6% (Table 13).

Much of this shift can be explained by two factors. First, unemployment has been higher in the male oriented goods-producing sector of the economy. In these industries 15.1% of male employees and 13.6% of female workers were unemployed in 1983 compared with less than 10% for both sexes in the service sector (Table 4). Second, the poor economic climate of the early 1980s had a greater impact on men than women in the younger age groups. In 1980, unemployment rates for men aged 15-19 and 20-24 were one to two points higher than those for females of the same age; by 1983, however, the difference had widened to four points among those 15-19 and to six points for those aged 20-24 (Table 14). Still in 1983, the unemployment rate for women aged 15-19 was 20% while for those aged 20-24 the rate was 15%.

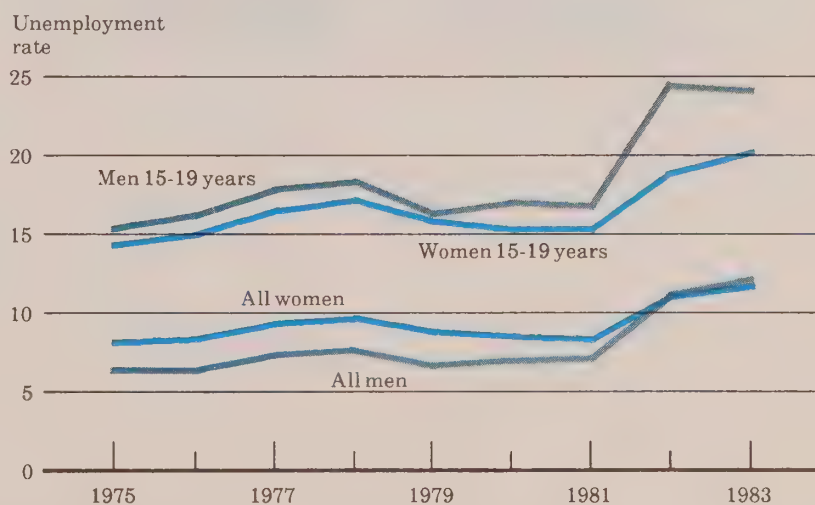
#### Unemployment patterns

also vary with the marital status of women and men. In 1983, single men had considerably higher unemployment rates than single women, but married women had higher rates than married men. For both sexes, though rates are lower for married than for single people (Table 15).

Unemployment rates are also considerably higher among women with young children but without a spouse at home than for mothers of young children whose husbands live at home (Table 16). In 1983, 16% of women with no husband at home and children aged 6-15 were unemployed compared with 10% of those whose husband was at home. The difference was even greater among women with pre-school aged children. In fact, the 1983 unemployment rate of these lone mothers was double that of women with husbands: 26% compared to 13%.

The reasons why women and men become unemployed differ (Table 17). In 1983, over three-quarters of

**Figure 5** Unemployment Rate, by Age, 1975-1983



Source: Table 14

unemployed men had either lost their job or were laid off, while this was the case for only 56% of unemployed women. Women, on the other hand, were much more likely than men to be unemployed on account of personal responsibilities. As well, 11% of unemployed women, compared with 4% of unemployed men were labour force entrants: people who either had not worked in the preceding five years or had never worked.

There are also differences in the length of time women and men are unemployed (Table 18). In 1983, men were unemployed an average of 3.2

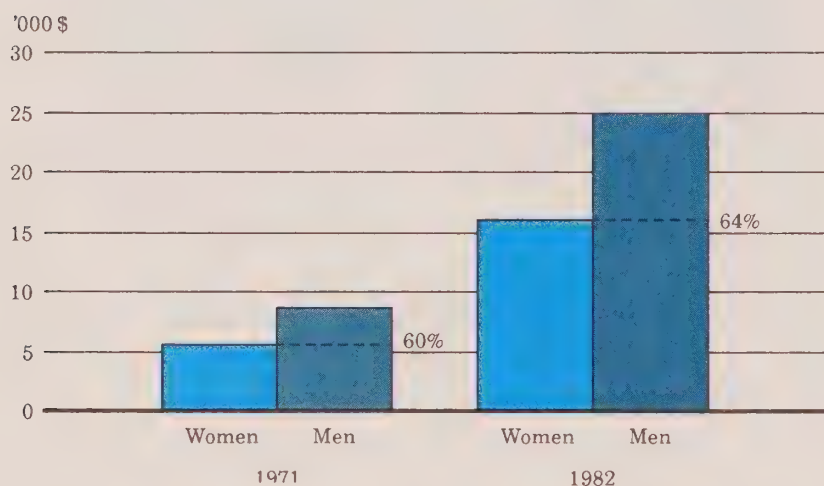
weeks longer than women. Furthermore, this difference has grown. In 1980, men's periods of unemployment averaged less than one week longer than those of women.

**Earnings:** Women earn less than men. In 1982, the average earnings of women who were employed full-time were just 64% of those of full-time male employees: \$16,100 compared with \$25,100 for men (Table 19). But progress in this regard has been steady, albeit slow; in 1971, women's average annual earnings had been just under 60% of those of men.

Differences in the earnings of women and men vary somewhat with age, occupation and education.<sup>3</sup> For both women and men, those aged 35-44 had the highest annual average earnings: \$17,400 for women and \$28,200 for men (Table 20). Women's earnings in this age group, however, represented only 62% of men's earnings. Younger women had the highest average annual earnings in comparison with their male contemporaries. Women under 20 had earnings which were almost 90% of those of men under 20, while earnings of women aged 20-24 were close to 80% of those of men. What this reflects, however, is relatively low earnings on the part of both young men and women.

Women's average earnings in 1982 ranged from a high of \$21,700 for professionals to \$11,500 for those in service occupations (Table 21). Professional women also had the highest earnings relative to those of their male colleagues, however, women in professional occupations still only had earnings of 68% of those of male professionals. At the other end of the scale, the earnings of women in product fabrication were 54% of those of men, while the earnings of women in service jobs were 56% of those of men.

**Figure 6** Average Annual Earnings of Full-time Workers, 1971 and 1982



Source: Table 19

<sup>3</sup> Earnings by level of education are discussed in Section II.

**Table 1** Labour Force Participation, 1970-1983

	Labour Force		Women as a % of Labour Force	Participation Rate	
	Women	Men		Women	Men
	000's	000's		%	%
1970	2,824	5,571	33.6	38.3	77.8
1971	2,972	5,667	34.4	39.4	77.3
1972	3,101	5,797	34.9	40.2	77.5
1973	3,303	5,973	35.6	41.9	78.2
1974	3,477	6,163	36.1	43.0	78.7
1975	3,680	6,294	36.9	44.4	78.4
1976	3,836	6,368	37.6	45.2	77.6
1977	3,996	6,505	38.1	46.0	77.7
1978	4,239	6,657	38.9	47.9	78.1
1979	4,420	6,811	39.4	49.0	78.5
1980	4,638	6,935	40.1	50.4	78.4
1981	4,851	7,053	40.8	51.7	78.4
1982	4,926	7,031	41.2	51.7	77.0
1983	5,084	7,098	41.7	52.6	76.7

**Sources:** *Labour Force Annual Averages 1975-1983*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-529.  
*Historical Labour Force Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-201.

**Table 2** Labour Force Participation Rate, by Age Group, 1975-1983

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Age group									
15-19									
Women	47.4	47.0	46.7	48.0	50.8	52.1	53.0	50.5	50.1
Men	54.6	52.6	54.1	54.8	57.1	57.8	58.2	53.7	52.9
20-24									
Women	67.0	67.4	68.9	70.3	71.3	73.0	72.9	73.1	74.0
Men	85.0	85.1	85.2	85.9	86.4	86.4	86.5	84.4	84.3
25-34									
Women	52.9	53.9	55.2	59.0	60.4	62.7	65.5	65.6	67.6
Men	95.2	95.4	95.3	95.6	95.7	95.4	95.3	94.2	93.7
35-44									
Women	51.5	53.3	55.7	58.3	59.4	61.6	64.5	65.8	66.9
Men	96.1	96.0	95.9	96.0	96.3	96.0	96.1	95.2	95.1
45-54									
Women	46.1	48.3	49.2	51.0	52.1	54.1	55.7	56.3	58.2
Men	92.7	92.5	92.4	92.9	92.7	92.6	92.8	91.8	92.1
55-64									
Women	30.8	32.0	32.1	32.7	34.0	33.7	33.7	33.9	33.7
Men	79.3	76.7	76.4	76.6	76.4	76.2	75.1	73.6	72.3
65 and over									
Women	4.9	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.6
Men	18.5	16.0	15.6	15.2	15.3	14.8	14.1	13.9	13.0
Total									
Women	44.4	45.2	46.0	47.9	49.0	50.4	51.7	51.7	52.6
Men	78.4	77.6	77.7	78.1	78.5	78.4	78.4	77.0	76.7

**Sources:** *Labour Force Annual Averages 1975-1983*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-529.  
*The Labour Force*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-001.



**Table 3** Labour Force Participation Rate of Women, by Family Status and Age of Youngest Child, 1975-1983

	Women with Husband at Home			Women with No Husband at Home		
	With Pre-school Age Child(ren)	With Child(ren) 6-15 Years	Without Children Under 16 Years	With Pre-school Age Child(ren)	With Child(ren) 6-15 Years	Without Children Under 16 Years
	%	%	%	%	%	%
1975	34.1	47.0	42.7	45.4	57.8	39.3
1976	34.9	49.0	43.5	43.9	58.7	40.7
1977	36.6	50.8	44.3	46.8	60.5	39.5
1978	40.7	53.2	45.1	45.2	62.2	43.0
1979	42.1	54.6	46.3	49.6	63.0	44.1
1980	44.3	57.1	47.2	53.3	66.4	42.7
1981	47.1	60.2	47.7	51.2	67.8	45.4
1982	48.2	60.8	48.3	51.6	66.7	46.1
1983	51.5	61.4	48.6	50.8	65.5	47.5

Source: Labour Force Survey Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 4** Employment by Industry, 1975, 1981 and 1983

	1975		1981		1983	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Goods-producing Industries						
Total employment 000's	623	2,554	799	2,781	757	2,452
% of employment in sector	19.6	80.4	22.3	77.7	23.6	76.4
% of total employment	18.4	43.3	18.0	42.4	16.8	39.3
Unemployment rate	9.9	7.3	9.9	8.2	13.6	15.1
Service Industries						
Total employment 000's	2,758	3,349	3,648	3,777	3,738	3,788
% of employment in sector	45.2	54.8	49.1	50.9	49.7	50.3
% of total employment	81.6	56.7	82.0	57.6	83.2	60.7
Unemployment rate	6.0	4.3	6.8	5.5	9.8	9.2

Sources: *Labour Force Annual Averages 1975-1983*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-529.  
*The Labour Force*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-001.

**Table 5** Employment Distribution by Industry, 1975, 1981 and 1983

	Women			Men			Women as a % of Employment		
	1975	1981	1983	1975	1981	1983	1975	1981	1983
	%	%	%	%	%	%			
Goods-producing Industries									
Agriculture	3.2	3.0	3.0	6.4	5.4	5.4	22.4	27.2	28.8
Other primary industries	0.4	0.8	0.7	3.5	4.4	4.0	6.8	10.8	11.0
Manufacturing	13.6	12.8	11.8	23.9	23.7	21.7	24.6	26.9	28.2
Construction	1.2	1.4	1.3	9.6	9.0	8.2	6.6	9.5	10.1
Sub-total	18.4	18.0	16.8	43.3	42.4	39.3	19.6	22.3	23.6
Service Industries									
Transportation, communications and other utilities	4.4	4.6	4.6	11.2	10.8	10.6	18.3	22.4	23.9
Trade	19.0	18.3	17.8	16.8	16.3	16.8	39.3	43.2	43.4
Finance, insurance and real estate	8.0	8.1	7.9	3.4	3.5	4.0	57.2	60.9	58.8
Community, business and personal service	43.9	44.7	46.4	17.6	19.5	21.4	58.8	60.9	60.9
Public administration	6.2	6.3	6.4	7.7	7.4	7.9	31.6	36.5	37.0
Sub-total	81.5	82.0	83.1	56.7	57.6	60.7	45.2	49.1	49.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	36.4	40.4	41.9
Total employed 000's	3,381	4,447	4,495	5,903	6,559	6,240	...	...	...

... Figures not appropriate.

**Sources:** *Labour Force Annual Averages 1975-1983*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-529.  
*The Labour Force*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-001.

**Table 6** Employment by Occupational Group, 1975 and 1983

	Women		Men		Women as a % of Employment	
	1975	1983	1975	1983	1975	1983
	%	%	%	%		
Clerical	36.1	32.6	6.9	6.4	75.0	78.7
Service	16.6	18.6	9.7	11.3	49.6	54.3
Sales	10.4	10.4	11.5	10.8	34.0	41.1
Medicine and health	9.5	9.2	1.7	2.0	75.7	77.1
Teaching	7.2	6.2	2.9	3.2	58.3	58.3
Managerial, administrative	3.4	6.1	8.4	10.3	18.7	30.1
Product fabricating, assembling and repairing	5.9	4.7	11.2	10.9	23.1	23.6
Agriculture	3.0	2.7	6.8	6.0	20.4	24.6
Social sciences	1.4	2.0	1.1	1.5	43.6	48.9
Processing and machining	2.2	1.8	9.0	7.8	12.2	14.2
Artistic and recreational	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.7	33.3	37.8
Natural sciences	0.8	1.3	4.7	5.1	9.1	15.3
Materials handling	1.3	1.2	3.3	3.3	18.4	21.5
Other crafts and equipment	0.5	0.6	1.8	1.8	12.8	17.9
Transport equipment operation	0.4	0.5	6.3	6.0	3.1	6.1
Construction trades	0.1	0.2	10.9	9.1	0.6	1.9
Religion	--	0.1	0.4	0.4	--	15.6
Forestry and logging, fishing, hunting and trapping	--	--	1.1	1.5	--	--
Mining and quarrying	--	--	0.9	0.9	--	--
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	36.4	41.9
Total employed 000's	3,381	4,495	5,903	6,240	...	...

-- Numbers too small to provide reliable estimates; as a result, columns may not add up to total.

... Figures not appropriate.

**Sources:** *Labour Force Annual Averages 1975-1983*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-529.  
*The Labour Force*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-001.

**Table 7** Largest Occupations of Women, 1981

Occupation	Occupational Group	Total Labour Force	Growth in Female Employment 1971-1981	
			Total	Rank <sup>1</sup>
		000's	000's	
Secretaries and stenographers	Clerical	368	128	2
Bookkeepers and accounting clerks	Clerical	332	196	1
Salespersons	Sales	292	117	4
Tellers and cashiers	Clerical	229	126	3
Waitresses	Service	201	96	5
Nurses	Medicine and health	168	67	6
Elementary and kindergarten teachers	Teaching	140	19	18
General office clerks	Clerical	115	36	13
Typists and clerk-typists	Clerical	103	18	19
Cleaners	Service	97	42	10
Sewing machine operators	Product fabrication	93	43	8

<sup>1</sup> Other occupations ranked in the top 10 in terms of growth, but which are not yet among the largest occupations include: #7-Receptionists and information clerks (Clerical) -- +46,000; and #9-Chefs and cooks (Service) -- +43,000. Electronic data-processing equipment operators, another clerical occupation, ranked 11th in growth in this period at +41,000.

**Source:** 1981 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada Catalogue 92-920.

**Table 8** Union Membership and Unionization Rate, 1970-1982

	Union Membership		Women as a % of Total	Unionization Rate <sup>1</sup>	
	Women	Men		Women	Men
	000's	000's		%	%
1970	513	1,754	22.6	21.5	39.6
1971	558	1,817	23.5	21.7	40.0
1972	576	1,802	24.2	21.4	38.4
1973	636	1,944	24.7	22.2	39.2
1974	677	2,006	25.2	22.4	39.4
1975	711	2,025	26.0	22.9	39.5
1976	751	2,028	27.0	23.1	38.2
1977	782	2,040	27.7	23.2	38.0
1978	835	2,072	28.7	23.3	37.5
1979	890	2,145	29.3	23.7	38.5
1980	933	2,160	30.2	23.9	38.0
1981	980	2,180	31.0	24.0	37.2
1982	985	2,069	32.3	24.5	37.3

<sup>1</sup> Percentage of employed paid workers who belong to union organizations.

**Sources:** *Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, Part II Labour Unions*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-202.  
*The Labour Force*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-001.



**Table 9** Full-time and Part-time Employment, 1975-1983

	Women	Men	Women as a % of Total	Women	Men
	000's	000's		% Full-time	
Full-time					
1975	2,694	5,602	32.5	79.7	94.9
1976	2,773	5,658	32.9	78.9	94.9
1977	2,819	5,705	33.1	77.9	94.6
1978	2,964	5,817	33.8	77.4	94.5
1979	3,095	5,999	34.0	76.7	94.3
1980	3,238	6,078	34.8	76.2	94.1
1981	3,373	6,146	35.4	75.8	93.7
1982	3,287	5,823	36.1	74.9	93.1
1983	3,318	5,765	36.5	73.8	92.4
				% Part-time	
Part-time					
1975	687	301	69.5	20.3	5.1
1976	741	306	70.8	21.1	5.1
1977	800	327	71.0	22.1	5.4
1978	867	340	71.8	22.6	5.5
1979	938	363	72.1	23.3	5.7
1980	1,011	381	72.6	23.8	5.9
1981	1,074	413	72.2	24.2	6.3
1982	1,103	431	71.9	25.1	6.9
1983	1,177	475	71.2	26.2	7.6

Sources: *Historical Labour Force Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-201.  
*The Labour Force*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-001.

**Table 10** Part-time Workers, by Age Group and Marital Status, 1983

	Women		Men	
	No.	Part-time Workers as a % of Total Employed	No.	Part-time Workers as a % of Total Employed
	000's		000's	
Age Group				
15-24	384	33.7	315	26.3
25-44	499	22.0	70	2.2
45-54	167	25.3	20	1.9
55-64	101	27.9	34	4.8
65 and over	26	44.1	35	27.6
Marital status				
Married	735	26.7	126	2.8
Single	363	28.5	333	21.7
Divorced, separated and widowed	79	16.9	15	5.9
Total	1,177	26.2	475	7.6

Source: *Labour Force Annual Averages 1975-1983*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-529.

**Table 11** Percentage of Employed Women Working Part-time, by Family Status and Age of Youngest Child, 1975-1983

	Women with Husband at Home			Women with No Husband at Home		
	With Pre-school Age Child(ren)	With Child(ren) 6-15 Years	Without Children Under 16 Years	With Pre-school Age Child(ren)	With Child(ren) 6-15 Years	Without Children Under 16 Years
	%	%	%	%	%	%
1975	31.0	27.3	14.4	15.4	13.8	8.6
1976	31.4	26.1	15.1	17.1	14.0	11.1
1977	31.9	28.0	16.2	15.4	14.7	12.6
1978	32.9	28.5	16.7	19.5	14.5	13.4
1979	33.0	28.9	17.5	17.4	15.4	12.6
1980	34.2	30.1	17.6	17.3	14.8	13.9
1981	34.1	29.5	19.0	16.4	12.9	13.0
1982	33.8	30.7	19.8	20.0	13.7	13.1
1983	34.5	31.4	20.9	20.8	16.7	13.4

Source: Labour Force Survey Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

Table 12 Reasons for Part-time Work, by Marital Status, 1983

	Women						Men					
	Married			Single			Married			Single		
	000's	%		000's	%		000's	%		000's	%	
Personal or family responsibilities	139	18.9	--	--	--	7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Going to school	8	1.1	198	54.5	--	--	9	7.1	206	61.9	--	--
Could only find part-time work	179	24.5	115	31.7	32	40.5	47	37.3	94	28.2	5	33.3
Did not want full-time work	389	53.0	38	10.5	34	43.0	43	34.1	24	7.2	7	46.7
Other reasons	20	2.7	9	2.5	4	5.1	26	20.6	9	2.7	--	--
Total	735	100.0	363	100.0	79	100.0	126	100.0	333	100.0	15	100.0

-- Numbers too small to provide reliable estimates; as a result columns may not add up to total.

Source: *Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975-1983*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-529.

**Table 13** Unemployed Population and Unemployment Rate, 1970-1983

	Unemployed Population		Women as a % of Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	
	Women	Men		Women	Men
	000's	000's		%	%
1970	164	312	34.5	5.8	5.6
1971	197	338	36.8	6.6	6.0
1972	216	337	39.1	7.0	5.8
1973	220	295	42.7	6.7	4.9
1974	221	293	43.0	6.4	4.8
1975	299	391	43.3	8.1	6.2
1976	322	404	44.4	8.4	6.3
1977	377	473	44.4	9.4	7.3
1978	408	500	44.9	9.6	7.5
1979	387	449	46.3	8.8	6.6
1980	389	476	45.0	8.4	6.9
1981	404	494	45.0	8.3	7.0
1982	537	778	40.8	10.9	11.1
1983	590	859	40.7	11.6	12.1

**Source:** *Historical Labour Force Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-201.

**Table 14** Unemployment Rate, by Age Group, 1975-1983

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Age group									
15-19									
Women	14.4	15.1	16.7	17.1	15.8	15.3	15.4	18.9	20.1
Men	15.4	16.3	18.1	18.4	16.4	17.0	16.9	24.6	24.2
20-24									
Women	9.1	9.8	11.7	11.5	10.4	10.7	10.0	14.4	15.2
Men	10.5	11.1	12.6	12.7	11.0	11.3	12.2	19.0	21.4
25-34									
Women	8.0	8.4	8.9	9.4	8.5	7.6	8.4	10.5	11.5
Men	5.0	5.1	5.9	6.2	5.5	5.9	6.0	10.4	12.1
35-44									
Women	5.9	6.4	7.2	7.6	6.8	6.1	6.3	8.7	9.2
Men	3.6	3.9	4.3	4.6	3.9	4.3	4.3	7.4	8.1
45-54									
Women	5.7	5.4	6.5	6.5	6.0	6.2	5.5	7.4	8.0
Men	3.8	3.6	4.3	4.6	4.0	4.1	4.2	6.7	7.4
55-64									
Women	4.9	4.7	5.5	5.5	4.9	5.1	4.3	6.6	7.8
Men	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.4	4.5	4.3	4.4	7.1	8.2
Total									
Women	8.1	8.4	9.4	9.6	8.8	8.4	8.3	10.9	11.6
Men	6.2	6.3	7.3	7.5	6.6	6.9	7.0	11.1	12.1

**Sources:** *Labour Force Annual Averages 1975-1983*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-529.  
*The Labour Force*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-001.



**Table 15** Unemployment Rate, by Marital Status, 1975-1983

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Single									
Women	9.1	9.5	11.0	10.9	10.4	10.2	10.1	13.2	13.6
Men	12.2	12.9	14.6	14.7	12.9	13.1	13.3	19.6	21.0
Married									
Women	7.9	8.0	8.9	9.1	8.0	7.4	7.6	9.8	10.5
Men	4.0	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.1	4.3	4.4	7.6	8.3
Divorced, separated and widowed									
Women	6.4	7.4	7.7	8.8	8.2	8.6	7.3	10.8	12.2
Men	8.2	7.9	8.5	9.5	7.9	8.8	8.8	12.8	16.0

Source: *Historical Labour Force Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-201.

**Table 16** Unemployment Rate of Women, by Family Status and Age of Youngest Child, 1975-1983

	Women with Husband at Home			Women with No Husband at Home		
	With Pre-school Age Child(ren)	With Child(ren) 6-15 Years	Without Children Under 16 Years	With Pre-school Age Child(ren)	With Child(ren) 6-15 Years	Without Children Under 16 Years
	%	%	%	%	%	%
1975	11.7	7.1	6.5	13.6	7.6	4.2
1976	11.9	7.3	6.4	15.7	8.0	5.6
1977	12.6	8.3	7.5	16.5	8.6	5.8
1978	13.0	8.2	7.7	17.6	10.3	6.1
1979	10.9	7.6	6.7	19.0	11.3	5.1
1980	9.9	7.0	6.4	18.3	9.9	7.5
1981	10.8	7.2	6.2	17.7	9.2	5.2
1982	12.8	9.4	8.4	21.6	14.2	8.5
1983	13.4	10.3	9.0	25.6	15.5	8.7

Source: Labour Force Survey Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 17** Unemployed Population, by Reason for Leaving Last Job, 1983

	Women	Men	Women	Men
	000's	000's	%	%
Own illness	21	22	3.6	2.6
Personal responsibilities	45	6	7.6	0.7
School	27	41	4.6	4.8
Lost job or laid off	328	657	55.6	76.5
Retired	--	10	--	1.2
Other reasons	100	83	16.9	9.7
Not worked in last five years	29	6	4.9	0.7
Never worked	37	32	6.3	3.7
Total	590	859	100.0	100.0

- Numbers too small to provide reliable estimates; as a result columns may not add up to total.

Source: *The Labour Force*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-001.

**Table 18** Average Duration of Unemployment, by Age Group, 1976-1983

	Women		Men	
	15-24 Years	All Ages	15-24 Years	All Ages
	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks
1976	12.2	13.6	12.2	14.1
1977	13.3	14.4	12.9	14.6
1978	13.4	15.3	13.3	15.7
1979	12.7	14.5	12.5	15.1
1980	12.6	14.3	12.3	15.0
1981	12.6	14.2	13.4	15.9
1982	14.7	16.4	15.8	17.9
1983	17.1	19.9	19.3	23.1

Source: *The Labour Force*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-001.

**Table 19** Average Annual Earnings of Full-time and Part-time Workers, 1971-1982

	Earnings of Full-time Workers <sup>1</sup>		Women's Earnings as a % of Men's	Earnings of Part-time Workers <sup>2</sup>		Women's Earnings as a % of Men's
	Women	Men		Women	Men	
	\$	\$		\$	\$	
1971	5,232	8,770	59.7	2,303	3,264	70.6
1973	6,184	10,434	59.3	2,880	3,066	93.9
1975	8,231	13,674	60.2	3,460	4,111	84.2
1977	9,790	15,777	62.1	4,368	4,886	89.4
1979	11,743	18,537	63.3	5,375	7,952	67.6
1981	14,608	22,955	63.6	7,743	9,049	85.6
1982	16,056	25,096	64.0	8,159	9,054	90.1

<sup>1</sup> A full-time worker is a person who worked, mostly full-time, 50-52 weeks in the years 1971 to 1979, and 49-52 weeks in 1981 and 1982.

<sup>2</sup> A part-time worker is a person who worked mostly part-time, 50-52 weeks in the years 1971 to 1979, and 49-52 weeks in 1981 and 1982.

Source: *Earnings of Men and Women*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-577.

**Table 20** Average Annual Earnings of Full-time Workers, by Age Group, 1971 and 1982

Age Group	1971			1982		
	Women	Men	Women's Earnings as a % of Men's	Women	Men	Women's Earnings as a % of Men's
	\$	\$		\$	\$	
Under 20	..	..	..	8,504	9,663	88.0
20-24 <sup>2</sup>	4,356	5,849	74.5	13,480	17,236	78.2
25-34	5,706	8,668	65.8	16,810	23,579	71.3
35-44	5,759	9,942	57.9	17,401	28,247	61.6
45-54	5,235	9,425	55.5	16,474	28,076	58.7
55-64	5,527	8,573	64.5	15,977	25,678	62.2
Total	5,232	8,770	59.7	16,056	25,096	64.0

<sup>1</sup> A full-time worker is a person who worked, mostly full-time, 50-52 weeks in 1971, and 49-52 weeks in 1982.

<sup>2</sup> In 1971, this age group includes those persons aged 24 years and under.

.. Figures not available.

Source: *Earnings of Men and Women*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-577.

**Table 21** Average Annual Earnings of Full-time Workers, by Occupation, 1982

Occupation	Women	Men	Women's Earnings as a % of Men's
	\$	\$	
Professional	21,662	31,869	68.0
Managerial	20,164	34,669	58.2
Clerical	15,240	22,776	66.9
Transportation	14,079	23,158	60.8
Processing and machining	13,677	23,731	57.6
Sales	12,790	22,406	57.1
Product fabrication	12,193	22,563	54.0
Service	11,514	20,751	55.5

**Source:** *Earnings of Men and Women*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-577.

# INCOME

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An adequate income does not guarantee a high quality of life, but it is an important ingredient in the standard of living of Canadians. For women, how much income they have, and how it is generated is of growing importance. Women in traditional husband-wife families have made increasing contributions to their family's income. These contributions accounted for much of the growth of real family income in the early 1970s, and more recently helped slow what would otherwise have been a much steeper decline.

At the same time, growing numbers of women are living without the support of a spouse. One result of this is that the incidence of low income in Canada is becoming feminized, with families headed by women and women who live alone, particularly elderly women, making up a disproportionately large share of those with low incomes.

**Income Statistics:** An individual or family can receive income from a wide variety of sources. However, this section deals only with money income, that is, income derived from actual monetary exchanges. As well, these figures refer to income before taxes. Money

income includes wages and salaries, returns from self-employment and investments, government transfer payments, pensions, and other types of income such as alimony and scholarships. Several types of direct monetary exchanges, however, are not included in total income. These include receipts from the sale of property or personal belongings, income tax refunds, rebates of property and other taxes, insurance settlements, lump sum inheritances, and capital gains or losses. Other potential sources of income which do not involve money transactions and are therefore excluded from total income include income-in-kind such as free meals and living accommodations, self-produced food or fuel, imputed rents on owner-occupied homes, and benefits from health, educational and other government services.

In addition, the income statistics in this section do not take account of accumulated wealth or assets. Thus, indicators of income may not reflect all resources that families and individuals have at their disposal.

Statistics Canada has developed low-income cut-offs that distinguish low-income families from other families.

An initial set, the Low-Income Cut-Offs (1969 base), was determined from an analysis of 1969 Family Expenditure data and has been updated by the Consumer Price Index each year. Families below these cut-offs spend at least 62% of their income on food, shelter and clothing. A second set, the Low-Income Cut-Offs (1978 base) are determined from 1978 Family Expenditure data, again with subsequent updating by the Consumer Price Index. These revised cut-offs reflect more recent consumption patterns: families spending at least 58.5% of their income on food, shelter and clothing are considered to be in the low-income category. It should be noted, however, that these low-income cut-offs are not official poverty lines; rather they identify groups that are relatively worse off with respect to money income.

## **Income of Individuals:**

When the incomes of all Canadians, regardless of their family status, are examined, two trends emerge for women. First, a growing proportion of women are receiving some income, and second, their average income is rising relative to that of men. In 1971, only about six women in ten



received any income at all; by 1982, the proportion had risen to over eight in ten.<sup>1</sup> During this period, the proportion of men with income remained stable at around nine out of ten. At the same time, the average income of those women who had income rose from 42% of the male average in 1971 to 53% in 1982 (Table 1).

One result of these trends is that women's share of total income has increased. In 1971, women accounted for 22% of total individual income in Canada, by 1982 their share had grown to 32%.

## Family Income

The discussion of family income, as it relates to women, has two dimensions: first, the contribution of women to family income in husband-wife families; and second, the income of families headed by women compared with that of

other families.

### Husband-Wife Families:

Since 1971, the proportion of husband-wife families depending solely on the husband's income has declined. In 1971, 35% of families had depended exclusively on the income of the husband, while 40% had husband-wife income recipients (Table 2). By 1982, the husband was the sole income recipient in 16% of families, while in 56% of families both spouses were receiving some income.

In 1971, wives provided just over 25% of the income of families with head under 65 years of age, in which the wife received some income other than Family Allowance or Child Tax Credit (Table 3). By 1982, the proportion had risen to over 28%. Much of this increase occurred between 1979 and 1981, when the contribution of husbands in constant dollars declined by 2%, while that of wives increased by 4%. In 1982, however there was even a slight decline (1%) in the real income contribution

of wives although this decline was still about half that recorded for male spouses.

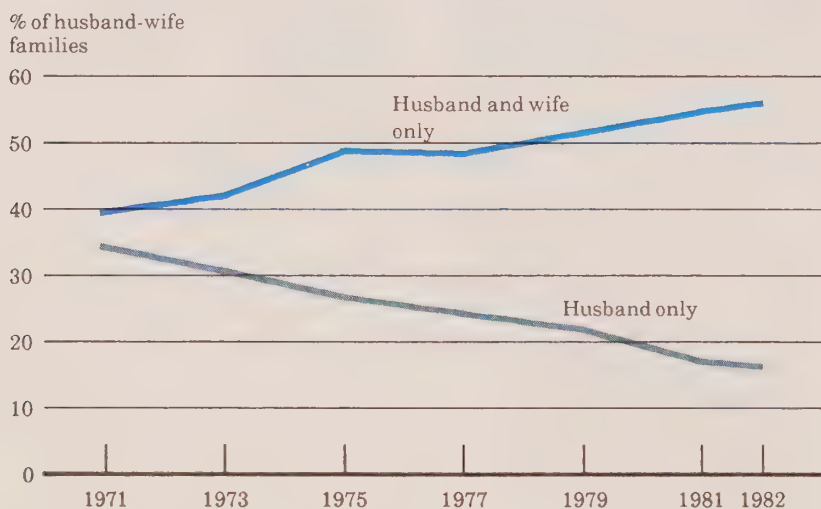
As a result, while actual average income, in current dollars, of husband-wife families in which the wife had income more than tripled from \$12,700 to \$39,200 between 1971 and 1982, real incomes in these families have been falling since 1979. In fact, the average income of husband-wife families in constant 1971 dollars was almost \$450 less in 1982 than it had been in 1979. It appears that without the increasing contribution of wives, the decline in real family incomes would have been even sharper.

### Income of Families Headed by Women and Men:<sup>2</sup>

A comparison of the income of families headed by women, most of which are lone-parent families, and those headed by working age men shows very clearly that while incomes of both types of families grew rapidly during the last decade, families headed by women still average half the income of families with male heads. In 1982, families with male heads had an average income of over \$36,000 which was over three times their 1971 income. The average income of female-headed families also more than tripled: from \$5,500 in 1971 to \$18,400 in 1982. Over this period, however, the income of families headed by women as a percentage of that of male-headed families increased only from 49% in 1971 to 51% in 1982 (Table 4).

Changes in family income are less spectacular when inflation is taken into account. From 1971 to 1981, the real, that is adjusted for inflation, incomes of families headed by women rose more than those headed by men:

**Figure 1** Income Recipients in Husband-Wife Families, 1971-1982



Source: Table 2

<sup>1</sup> These figures may be understated somewhat in that where Family Allowance and/or the Federal Child Tax Credit are the sole source(s) of income reported by the female spouse, these amounts are transferred to the male spouse for income distribution statistics purposes.

<sup>2</sup> The data in this section are for families headed by persons aged 15-64. Families with heads aged 65 and over are discussed separately.

36% compared with 26%, however, for both, most of the increase took place in the first half of the 1970s. There has been virtually no increase in real incomes of families headed by either women or men since 1977. And in 1982, the real incomes of families with female heads fell by 5% while those of families headed by men declined by only 2% (Table 4).

### Sources of Family Income:

Families headed by women depend more on government transfers and less on earnings than do families with male heads (Table 5). In 1982, government transfer payments constituted 22% of the income of families with female heads compared with just 7% for male-headed families.

Earnings on the other hand, accounted for 66% of the income of families headed by women versus 86% for male-headed families.

Over the period 1971-1982, the relative importance of different sources of income for families headed by women did not change significantly. In contrast, among male-headed families, the proportion of income coming from government transfers and investments increased, while the share generated by earnings decreased.

**Low Income Among Families:** Not surprisingly, a much higher proportion of families headed by women have incomes that fall below the Low-Income Cut-Offs than do families with male heads. Based on 1978 Cut-Offs, in 1982 almost 45% of families headed by women had low incomes compared with just 10% of male-headed families (Table 6). And while data based on the 1969 Cut-Offs indicates a general downward

trend in the percentage of families headed by women with low incomes between 1973 and 1978, low income among female-headed families fluctuated markedly in the later years with the net result that roughly the same proportion of families headed by women had low incomes in 1982 as did in 1979.

### Unattached Individuals<sup>3</sup>

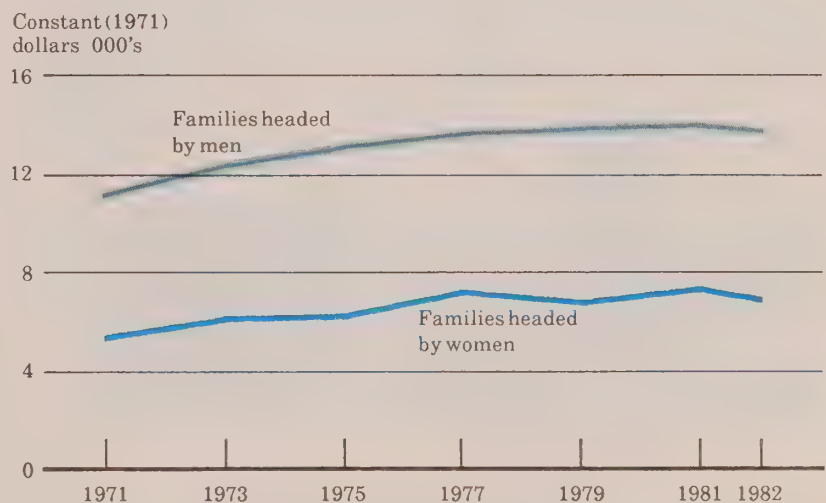
As with families, the income in current dollars of unattached women and men more than trebled during the seventies (Table 7). The real income of both unattached women and men increased by just under one-third between 1971 and 1981. In 1982, however, while the real income of unattached women increased by 3%, that of men declined by 7%. As a result, unattached women's income as a percentage of that of unattached men jumped to 83% in 1982, a figure signif-

icantly higher than any recorded through the 1971-1981 period.

The differences in the sources of income of unattached women and men are not as marked as those observed between families headed by women and men. In 1982, a slightly greater proportion of unattached men's income came from earnings - 87% compared with 82% for unattached women, while a greater proportion of unattached women's income (9%) than men's (5%) was generated through investments. For both unattached women and men, 7% of income originated in the form of government transfers (Table 8).

As well, the relative importance of the various sources of income of unattached women and men underwent similar changes between 1971 and 1982. The proportion coming from earnings declined while the share from investments and government transfers increased. The changes in the latter category were particularly noticeable:

**Figure 2** Average Income of Families with Head Aged 15-64, 1971-1982



Source: Table 4

<sup>3</sup> An unattached individual is a person living alone or in a household where he/she is not related to other household members. The data in this section are for unattached individuals aged 15-64. Unattached individuals aged 65 and over are discussed separately.

for both women and men the proportion of income from government transfers increased from 1% in 1971 to 7% in 1982.

The incidence of low income among unattached women aged 15-64 is about the same as that among men, with just under one-third (32% of women and 29% of men based on 1978 Cut-Offs) classified as having low incomes in 1982 (Table 6). However, low income among unattached women is less common than it is among female-headed families while the opposite appears for unattached men and families with male heads. As well, the difference between the incidence of low income among unattached women and men has narrowed in the last several years.

## Income of Elderly Women

**Families with Elderly Heads:** Families headed by elderly women have relatively

high incomes (Table 9). In 1982, their average income was only about \$100 less than the average income of families headed by elderly men, and it was over \$5,500 greater than the average income of families headed by women aged 15-64.

One reason for the relatively high average income of families headed by elderly women is that these families have high earnings. In 1982, these families had average earnings of \$10,400 which made up 43% of their total income. By contrast, the earnings of families headed by elderly men averaged \$5,700 and represented just under one-quarter of their total income (Table 10). Why this is the case is not clear, however, it may be that many families with elderly female heads have younger members still in the labour force.

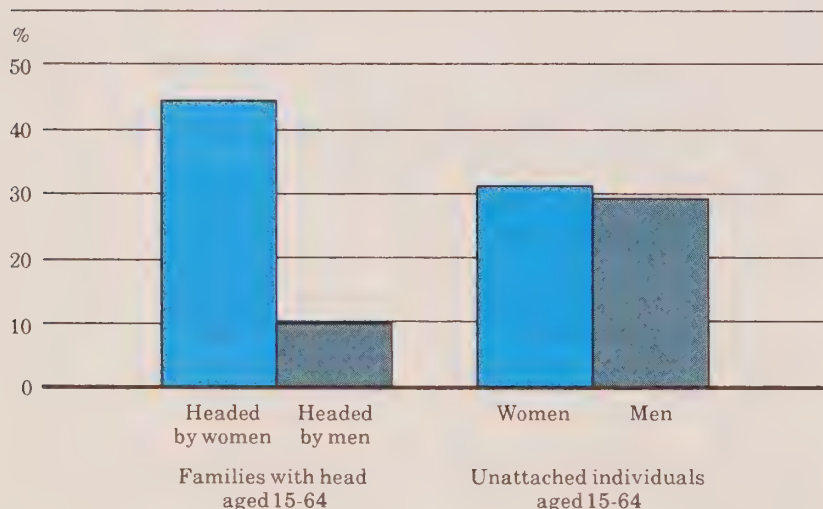
Yet at the same time a larger proportion of families headed by elderly women have incomes which fall below the Low-Income Cut-Offs. In 1982, 23% of families headed by elderly women had incomes

below the 1978 Cut-Offs compared with 9% of families headed by elderly men (Table 11). This apparent contradiction is explained by the fact that families headed by women either have very high or very low incomes. Almost 40% of families headed by women have average incomes of \$25,000 or more, while this is true of only 31% of families headed by elderly men. At the other extreme, 16% of families with elderly female heads compared with 5% of families with elderly male heads had incomes of less than \$10,000 in 1982 (Table 12).

**Elderly Unattached Individuals:** Elderly unattached women are among the poorest Canadians. In 1982, their average income was \$10,000, which was 67% of the average for unattached women aged 15-64, and 72% of the average for elderly unattached men (Table 13). That year 335,000 of 560,000 elderly unattached Canadian women, or 60% had incomes below the Low-Income Cut-Off (1978 base). Still this figure is down from 69% in 1979 (Table 11).

Not surprisingly, older people, especially those who are unattached, rely heavily on government pensions (Table 14). Slightly more than 50% of the 1982 income of unattached elderly women (38% for unattached elderly men) came from Old Age Security or Canada/Quebec Pension Plan programs. Since 1971, however, there has been a decrease in the share of income coming from the Old Age Security program and an increase in the proportion coming from the Canada/Quebec Pension Plans. The proportion of income from the two programs together, though, remained roughly the same over the 1971-1982

**Figure 3** Low Income Among Families and Unattached Individuals, 1982  
(Based on 1978 Low-Income Cut-Offs)



Source: Table 6



period. The share of the income of elderly unattached women coming from investments grew between 1971 and 1982 while earnings constituted a small and shrinking proportion. In 1982, investments made up 29% of the income of these women and 33% of that of unattached men, while earnings contributed only 5% and 13% respectively. A growing proportion of the income of unattached elderly individuals came from private pensions, and for unattached women, private pensions provided a greater share than either earnings or the CPP/QPP in 1982.

**Pensions:** The Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)<sup>4</sup> program and the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans (CPP/QPP) are the primary government income support systems for the majority of elderly Canadians.

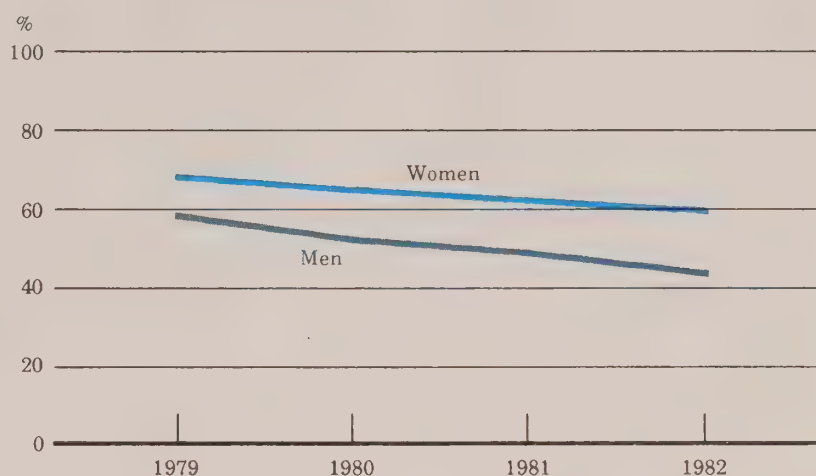
In 1982, almost 1.4 million women and one million men received either Old Age Security benefits or OAS plus Guaranteed Income Supplement. Of these recipients, a greater percentage of women were receiving either full or partial GIS benefits (Table 15). However, while 23% of families headed by elderly women and 60% of elderly unattached women have low incomes, only 15% of elderly women presently receive the full GIS. As well, the proportion of elderly people receiving GIS, particularly full benefits, has declined. This is due, in part, to increased eligibility of both women and men for other pensions, particularly the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans. As a result, their incomes from other sources are rising and a smaller percentage qualify for full or partial GIS benefits.

Most Canadians who have jobs contribute to and are

eligible for CPP/QPP pensions and benefits. But because this program is tied to labour force participation, and benefits depend on the length of time worked and the size of contributions, fewer women receive benefits, and the benefits they do receive are less than those of men. In 1980, for example,

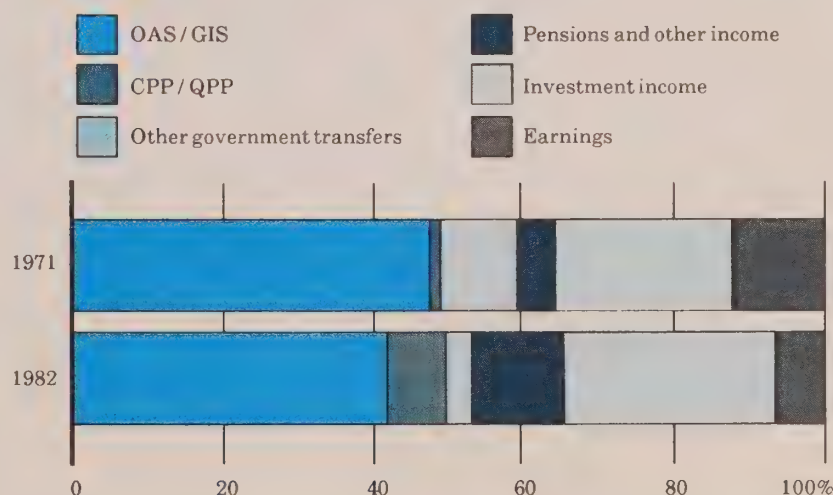
57% of women aged 18-64 contributed to the CPP/QPP compared with slightly more than 90% of men (Table 16). Thus, at retirement, fewer women are eligible for CPP/QPP pensions. In 1983, more than two and a half times the proportion of elderly men (78%) as women (29%), were

**Figure 4** Low Income Among Unattached Individuals 65 Years and Over, 1979-1982  
(Based on 1978 Low-Income Cut-Offs)



Source: Table 11

**Figure 5** Sources of Income of Unattached Women 65 Years and Over, 1971 and 1982



Source: Table 14

<sup>4</sup> All Canadians 65 years and over are entitled to Old Age Security benefits. Full or partial Guaranteed Income Supplements are available to those pensioners whose income from all sources is below specified levels.

beneficiaries of CPP/QPP retirement pensions. At the same time, the average pension paid to women was only 68% of that received by men (Table 17).

In 1980, fewer than a third of women in the labour force participated in private pension plans compared with 46% of men (Table 18). The percent-

ages for both sexes, however, rose between 1970 and 1980, with slightly greater growth among men

Women's lower participation in private pension plans is related to their concentration in both part-time work and in industries where pension plan coverage is less extensive than in industries where men pre-

dominate. Furthermore, the effectiveness of these plans is weakened by problems such as the general lack of pension portability from job to job, long vesting periods, the difficulty of splitting benefits upon divorce, inflation, and limited or sometimes non-existent benefits for spouses if the recipient dies.



**Table 1** Individuals with Income, 1971-1982

	Individuals with Income <sup>1</sup>		Individuals with Income as a % of Population aged 15 years and over		Average Income of Individuals with Income		Women's Income as a % of Men's	Women's Share of Total Income
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men		
	000's	000's			\$	\$		%
1971	4,620	6,856	61.3	89.6	2,948	7,004	42.1	22.1
1973	5,210	7,348	66.4	91.7	3,604	8,410	42.9	23.3
1975	5,951	7,661	72.2	90.6	4,788	10,865	44.1	25.5
1977	6,417	7,961	74.6	89.8	6,085	12,698	47.9	27.9
1979	6,894	8,279	77.3	89.7	7,342	15,143	48.5	28.8
1981	7,620	8,641	82.3	90.0	9,522	18,516	51.4	31.2
1982	7,838	8,747	83.4	89.6	10,529	19,927	52.8	32.1

<sup>1</sup> Where Family Allowances and/or the Federal Child Tax Credit are the sole source(s) of income reported by the female spouse, these amounts are transferred to the male spouse for income distribution statistics.

**Source:** *Income Distributions by Size in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-207.

**Table 2** Income Recipients in Husband-Wife Families, 1971-1982

	1971	1973	1975	1977	1979	1981	1982
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Husband only	34.7	30.8	26.9	24.7	22.0	17.5	16.4
Husband and wife only	40.0	42.2	48.9	49.0	51.9	55.2	56.3
Other	25.3	27.0	24.3	26.4	26.1	27.3	27.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Source:** *Income Distributions by Size in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-207.

**Table 3** Distribution of Income by Income Recipients in Husband-Wife Families, 1971-1982<sup>1</sup>

	1971	1973	1975	1977	1979	1981	1982
Family Income in Current Dollars							
Husband	8,782	10,445	13,466	16,054	19,375	23,426	25,341
Wife	3,207	3,890	5,216	6,421	7,892	10,190	11,156
Other family members	751	1,012	1,236	1,792	2,132	2,641	2,732
Total	12,740	15,347	19,918	24,267	29,399	36,257	39,229
Family Income in Constant (1971) Dollars							
Husband	8,782	9,268	9,723	9,984	10,133	9,889	9,654
Wife	3,207	3,452	3,766	3,993	4,128	4,301	4,250
Other family members	751	898	892	1,114	1,115	1,115	1,041
Total	12,740	13,618	14,381	15,091	15,376	15,305	14,944
%							
Husband	68.9	68.1	67.6	66.2	65.9	64.6	64.6
Wife	25.2	25.3	26.2	26.5	26.8	28.1	28.4
Other family members	5.9	6.6	6.2	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes only those families with husband under 65 years and wife with income.

**Source:** Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 4** Average Income of Families with Head Aged 15-64, 1971-1982

	Family Income in Current Dollars		Family Income in Constant (1971) Dollars		Income of Families Headed by Women as a % of that of Families Headed by Men
	Families Headed by Women	Families Headed by Men	Families Headed by Women	Families Headed by Men	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
1971	5,446	11,235	5,446	11,235	48.5
1973	7,066	13,878	6,270	12,314	50.9
1975	8,818	18,242	6,367	13,171	48.3
1977	11,719	22,130	7,288	13,762	53.0
1979	13,248	26,810	6,929	14,022	49.4
1981	17,527	33,500	7,398	14,141	52.3
1982	18,398	36,221	7,009	13,798	50.8

Source: *Income Distributions by Size in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-207.

**Table 5** Sources of Income of Families with Head Aged 15-64, 1971 and 1982

	Families Headed by Women		Families Headed by Men	
	\$ Per Family	%	\$ Per Family	%
1971				
Earnings <sup>1</sup>	3,552	65.2	10,401	92.6
Investment income	293	5.4	343	3.1
Government transfer payments	1,188	21.8	302	2.7
Pension and other income	416	7.6	191	1.7
Total	5,449	100.0	11,237	100.0
1982				
Earnings <sup>1</sup>	12,089	65.6	31,203	86.2
Investment income	1,147	6.2	2,028	5.6
Government transfer payments	4,017	21.8	2,345	6.5
Pension and other income	1,161	6.3	616	1.7
Total	18,415	100.0	36,192	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes wages, salaries and net income from self-employment.

Source: Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 6** Low Income Among Families with Head Aged 15-64 and Unattached Individuals Aged 15-64, 1973-1982

	1973	1975	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Families								
Based on 1969 Cut-Offs								
Female head	45.8	43.7	40.6	37.7	39.6	42.3	35.7	39.2
Male head	9.0	7.4	6.7	5.9	6.6	6.4	6.2	7.2
Based on 1978 Cut-Offs								
Female head	..	..	..	..	43.9	46.6	40.5	44.7
Male head	..	..	..	..	8.5	8.1	8.3	9.7
Unattached individuals								
Based on 1969 Cut-Offs								
Women	37.1	47.2	34.5	31.9	29.8	31.3	27.8	27.1
Men	26.0	24.9	23.6	23.3	21.1	20.1	18.7	24.1
Based on 1978 Cut-Offs								
Women	..	..	..	..	35.0	36.7	34.6	31.7
Men	..	..	..	..	25.8	24.6	24.6	29.2

.. Figures not available.

**Sources:** *Income Distributions by Size in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-207.  
 Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 7** Average Income of Unattached Individuals Aged 15-64, 1971-1982<sup>1</sup>

	Income in Current Dollars		Income in Constant (1971) Dollars		Women's Income as a % of Men's
	Women	Men	Women	Men	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
1971	4,132	5,590	4,132	5,590	73.9
1973	4,886	6,764	4,335	6,002	72.2
1975	6,308	8,739	4,555	6,310	72.2
1977	8,036	10,753	4,998	6,687	74.7
1979	10,239	13,205	5,355	6,906	77.5
1981	12,924	17,291	5,455	7,299	74.7
1982	14,765	17,824	5,625	6,790	82.8

<sup>1</sup> Unattached individuals are people living alone or in a household where they are not related to the other members.**Source:** *Income Distributions by Size in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-207.

**Table 8** Sources of Income of Unattached Individuals Aged 15-64, 1971 and 1982

	Women		Men	
	\$ Per Person	%	\$ Per Person	%
1971				
Earnings <sup>1</sup>	3,649	88.1	5,133	91.8
Investment income	242	5.8	162	2.9
Government transfer payments	41	1.0	52	0.9
Pension and other income	209	5.0	246	4.4
Total	4,141	100.0	5,593	100.0
1982				
Earnings <sup>1</sup>	12,053	81.6	15,483	86.8
Investment income	1,263	8.6	861	4.8
Government transfer payments	1,028	7.0	1,227	6.9
Pension and other income	421	2.9	272	1.5
Total	14,765	100.0	17,843	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes wages, salaries and net income from self-employment.

**Source:** Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 9** Average Income of Families with Head 65 Years and Over, 1971-1982

	Family Income in Current Dollars		Family Income in Constant (1971) Dollars		Income of Families Headed by Women as a % of that of Families Headed by Men
	Families Headed by Women	Families Headed by Men	Families Headed by Women	Families Headed by Men	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
1971	7,445	6,736	7,445	6,736	110.5
1972	9,038	7,258	8,624	6,926	124.5
1973	8,927	8,231	7,921	7,303	108.5
1974	9,988	9,968	7,990	7,974	100.2
1975	11,587	10,326	8,366	7,456	112.2
1976	13,794	11,674	9,264	7,840	118.2
1977	14,148	12,177	8,799	7,573	116.2
1978	16,301	14,158	9,304	8,081	115.1
1979	17,262	15,191	9,028	7,945	113.6
1980	19,048	19,201	9,045	9,117	99.2
1981	22,367	20,328	9,442	8,581	110.0
1982	23,974	24,090	9,133	9,177	99.5

**Sources:** *Income Distributions by Size in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-207.  
Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.



**Table 10** Sources of Income of Families with Head 65 Years and Over, 1971 and 1982

	Families Headed by Women		Families Headed by Men	
	\$ Per Family	%	\$ Per Family	%
1971				
Earnings <sup>1</sup>	4,152	55.8	2,658	39.5
Investment income	877	11.8	1,201	17.8
OAS/GIS	1,578	21.2	1,770	26.3
CPP/QPP	41	0.6	108	1.6
Other government transfers	475	6.4	788	11.7
Pensions, annuities and other income	322	4.3	209	3.1
Total	7,445	100.0	6,736	100.0
1982				
Earnings <sup>1</sup>	10,396	43.4	5,654	23.5
Investment income	4,129	17.2	6,243	25.9
OAS/GIS	5,045	21.0	5,817	24.1
CPP/QPP	890	3.7	2,105	8.7
Other government transfers	1,698	7.1	917	3.8
Pensions, annuities and other income	1,817	7.6	3,355	13.9
Total	23,974	100.0	24,090	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes wages, salaries and net income from self-employment.

**Source:** Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 11** Low Income Among Families with Head 65 Years and Over and Unattached Individuals 65 Years and Over, 1973-1982

	1973	1975	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Families								
Based on 1969 Cut-Offs								
Female head	23.0	22.1	23.8	27.6	17.6	15.9	18.4	15.2
Male head	24.4	22.4	20.7	19.0	14.5	7.2	8.3	4.9
Based on 1978 Cut-Offs								
Female head	..	..	..	..	22.2	21.2	24.7	23.2
Male head	..	..	..	..	21.8	13.3	12.9	9.4
Unattached individuals								
Based on 1969 Cut-Offs								
Women	64.3	64.1	60.0	..	53.5	40.5	39.1	34.1
Men	56.4	50.9	53.0	..	40.6	30.2	26.9	22.4
Based on 1978 Cut-Offs								
Women	..	..	..	..	68.8	65.4	62.2	60.1
Men	..	..	..	..	58.6	51.9	48.4	43.6

.. Figures not available.

**Sources:** *Income Distributions by Size in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-207.

Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 12** Income Distribution of Families with Head 65 Years and Over and Unattached Individuals 65 Years and Over, 1982

Income Group	Families		Unattached Individuals	
	Headed by Women	Headed by Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%
Under \$5,000	0.7	0.4	3.1	3.0
\$5,000 - 9,999	15.2	4.4	71.4	57.3
\$10,000 - 14,999	22.1	34.1	12.4	14.9
\$15,000 - 19,999	13.5	17.9	5.3	8.9
\$20,000 - 24,999	10.2	12.3	3.4	4.5
\$25,000 - 44,999	27.4	20.7	4.4	11.5
\$45,000 and over	10.9	10.2		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number 000s	95	731	557	171

**Source:** *Income Distributions by Size in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-207.

**Table 13** Average Income of Unattached Individuals 65 Years and Over, 1971-1982

	Income in Current Dollars		Income in Constant (1971) Dollars		Women's Income as a % of Men's
	Women	Men	Women	Men	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
1971	2,492	3,252	2,492	3,252	76.6
1972	3,127	3,498	2,984	3,338	89.4
1973	3,206	3,900	2,845	3,461	82.2
1974	3,823	4,771	3,058	3,817	80.1
1975	3,955	4,570	2,856	3,300	86.5
1976	4,323	6,636	2,903	4,457	65.1
1977	4,961	5,328	3,085	3,313	93.1
1978	5,909	6,163	3,373	3,518	95.9
1979	6,276	8,217	3,282	4,298	76.4
1980	7,607	9,582	3,612	4,550	79.4
1981	8,978	11,021	3,790	4,652	81.5
1982	9,965	13,759	3,796	5,242	72.4

**Sources:** *Income Distributions by Size in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-207.  
Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 14** Sources of Income of Unattached Individuals 65 Years and Over, 1971 and 1982

	Women		Men	
	\$ Per Person	%	\$ Per Person	%
1971				
Earnings <sup>1</sup>	276	11.1	743	22.9
Investment income	602	24.1	728	22.4
OAS/GIS	1,188	47.7	1,191	36.6
CPP/QPP	37	1.5	49	1.5
Other government transfers	269	10.8	446	13.7
Pensions, annuities and other income	120	4.8	94	2.9
Total	2,492	100.0	3,252	100.0
1982				
Earnings <sup>1</sup>	528	5.3	1,809	13.1
Investment income	2,847	28.6	4,559	33.1
OAS/GIS	4,194	42.1	3,884	28.2
CPP/QPP	806	8.1	1,289	9.4
Other government transfers	385	3.9	457	3.3
Pensions, annuities and other income	1,205	12.1	1,761	12.8
Total	9,965	100.0	13,759	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes wages, salaries and net income from self-employment.

**Source:** Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 15** Old Age Security Pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement Recipients, 1978, 1980 and 1982

	1978	1980	1982	1978	1980	1982
	000's	000's	000's	%	%	%
OAS only						
Women	502.7	566.9	621.0	42.8	44.5	45.8
Men	434.6	489.5	532.3	49.3	51.5	52.9
OAS and GIS						
Women	670.7	705.8	735.2	57.2	55.5	54.2
Men	446.7	460.5	473.0	50.7	48.5	47.1
Full GIS						
Women	247.6	228.9	208.1	21.1	18.0	15.3
Men	147.8	128.2	110.6	16.8	13.5	11.0
Partial GIS						
Women	423.1	476.9	527.1	36.1	37.5	38.8
Men	299.0	332.3	362.4	33.9	35.0	36.0
Total OAS/GIS						
Women	1,173.4	1,272.7	1,356.2	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men	881.3	950.0	1,005.3	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Source:** Department of Health and Welfare, Policy Planning and Information Branch, unpublished data.

**Table 16** Contributors to Canada and Quebec Pension Plans, 1975-1980

			Contributors as a % of Population 18-64 Years	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	000's	000's		
1975	3,596	6,378	53.8	95.6
1976	3,725	6,437	54.5	94.4
1977	3,812	6,513	54.5	93.4
1978	3,944	6,553	55.2	92.1
1979	4,189	6,715	57.5	92.6
1980	4,245	6,696	57.1	90.5

Source: *Canada and Quebec Pension Plans*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 86-507.

**Table 17** Beneficiaries of CPP/QPP Retirement Pensions and Average Monthly Pensions, 1970-1983

Beneficiaries		Beneficiaries as a % of Population 65 Years and Over		Average Monthly Pensions			
		Women	Men	CPP		QPP	
				Women	Men	Women	Men
	No.	No.		\$	\$	\$	\$
1970	31,095	115,600	3.3	15.1	15	19	21
1971	49,175	171,055	5.1	21.9	19	24	26
1972	66,675	213,813	6.7	26.8	22	28	30
1973	83,980	253,679	8.2	31.2	26	33	34
1974	105,681	302,858	10.0	36.4	33	42	42
1975	128,921	360,761	11.9	42.4	41	55	52
1976	160,220	448,329	14.2	51.2	53	73	70
1977	189,135	514,035	16.2	57.1	63	87	86
1978	218,921	578,038	18.1	62.4	73	102	105
1979	246,785	629,800	19.7	66.0	84	119	122
1980	303,560	691,805	23.3	70.3	97	138	140
1981	340,330	738,930	25.4	73.1	111	160	162
1982	376,177	783,001	27.0	75.6	129	188	189
1983	412,795	823,227	28.7	77.6	147	217	218

Sources: *Canada and Quebec Pension Plans*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 86-507.  
Health Division, Social Security Statistics Section, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 18** Population Covered by Employer Sponsored Public and Private Pension Plans, 1970-1982

	Women Covered as a % of Female Labour Force	Men Covered as a % of Male Labour Force
1970	27.0	38.2
1974	28.1	41.8
1976	28.8	45.1
1978	31.1	45.4
1980	31.3	45.6
1982	30.2	45.5

**Sources:** Labour Division, Pensions Section, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.  
*Pension Plans in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 74-401.  
Historical Labour Force Statistics, Statistics Canada Catalogue 71-201.



# HEALTH

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**H**ealth is defined as the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. However, most data on health focus on measures of illness rather than the well-being of a person. Partly as a result of this, it is difficult to conclude whether women or men are healthier or whether the health of either is improving. On the one hand, women outlive men by a considerable margin and tend to have a lifestyle more conducive to good health: they consume less alcohol; a smaller percentage smoke; and they are almost as physically active as men. Yet women generally report more health problems, more days lost to illness, more consultations with doctors, and greater use of therapeutic drugs.

**Life Expectancy:** If lifespan is considered an indicator of health, then women are faring very well. In 1981, the life expectancies of women at all ages were longer than those of their male counterparts. Girls born in that year could expect to live to 79, seven years more than boys born at the same time. Women aged 20 and 40 in 1981 were also expected to outlive men of the same age, by about seven and six years respectively, while the differ-

ence for those aged 65 was just over four years (Table 1).

As well, the difference between the life expectancies of women and men has grown significantly since 1941. Girls born in 1941, for example, had a life expectancy that was only three years greater than for boys born that year compared with the seven-year difference that now exists. There was, however, very little change in the life expectancy gap between 1971 and 1981. The exception was the elderly: the difference between the life expectancy of women and men aged 65 increased by about a half a year in the 1971-1981 period.

But while women live longer than men, much of that time is spent in poor health. Estimates for 1978 indicated that, although women's life expectancy at birth was 7.5 years longer than that of men, their disability-free life expectancy was only 3.6 years longer (Table 2). Similarly, while 65-year-old women had an average life expectancy of 4.3 years more than that of 65-year-old men, the difference in disability-free time was only 1.7 years.

There are few differences in the causes of death of women and men. In 1982, four-fifths of all deaths of both

women and men were accounted for by five major causes of death, with little variation by sex between causes. Almost 60% of both women and men died from either heart disease or malignant neoplasms (cancer) (Table 3). Cerebrovascular diseases claimed 11% of female deaths compared with 7% of male deaths, while a slightly greater percentage of male deaths than female deaths resulted from respiratory diseases. The major difference in causes of death was for accidents: roughly twice as many men as women died as a result of accidents in 1982.

**Lifestyles:** It is possible that the difference in life expectancies of women and men is due in part to differences in lifestyle. For instance, women tend to drink and smoke less than men, and they have become almost as physically active as men.<sup>1</sup>

The 1978-79 Canada Health Survey showed that a smaller percentage of women than men consumed alcohol on a regular basis, and that women who did drink consumed smaller amounts. Among people 15 and older, 56% of women and 75% of men were classified as "current

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<sup>1</sup> Other factors such as diet, the use of illicit drugs, and the incidence and management of stress also play a part in how long people live and how "healthy" they are during their life. Because of the lack of reliable national data, these topics are not discussed in this chapter.

drinkers" (Table 4). As well, only 35% of women who were drinkers averaged more than seven drinks per week compared with 58% of male drinkers. Although alcohol consumption decreased significantly with age, the decline is more pronounced for women. Alcohol consumption fell from

71% among women 20-24 to 29% among those 65 and over; in comparison, 87% of men 20-24 drank while 54% of those 65 and over were still drinkers.

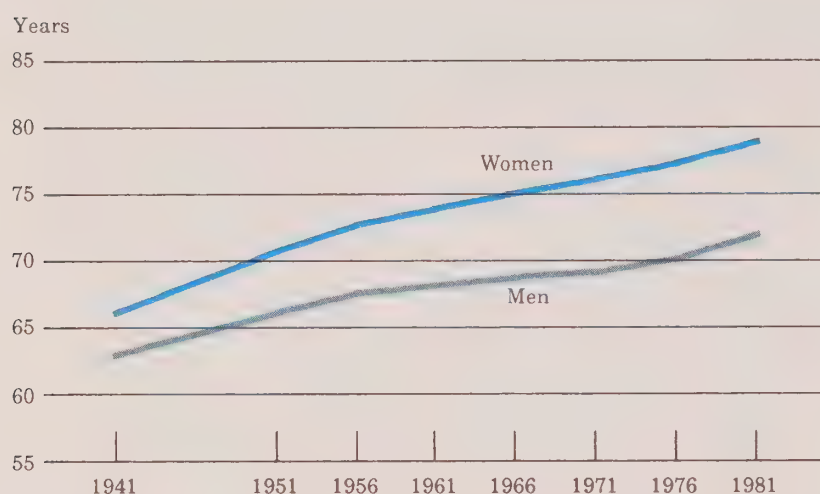
Tobacco products are also used less regularly by women than by men, although the gap has narrowed markedly since the mid-1960s. In 1983, 28% of

women 15 and over were regular cigarette smokers, compared with 34% of men (Table 5). In 1966, these percentages had been 32% for women and 54% for men. It is likely that the gap will continue to close, as there was no difference in the incidence of smoking for women and men aged 15-19 in 1983.

The 1981 Canada Fitness Survey examined the physical activity patterns and fitness levels of Canadians. It was found that overall, women were only slightly less active than men (Table 6). However, women did not score as well as men in cardiovascular (aerobic) fitness: just 39% of women between the ages of 7 and 69 achieved the recommended level of aerobic fitness, compared with 52% of men (Table 7). Among women, the only age group in which more than 50% reached the recommended level were the 7-14 year-olds; however, a higher percentage of women aged 20-29 achieved recommended levels than did men in their twenties.

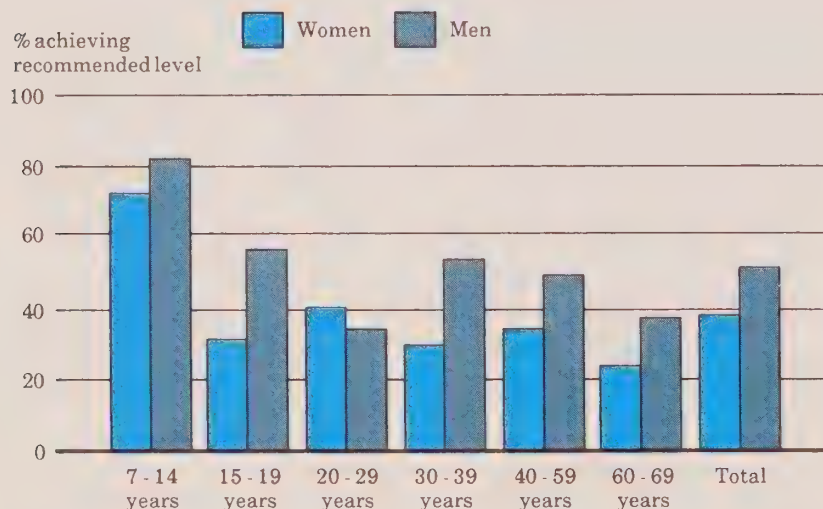
**Health Status:** Women accounted for close to six out of every ten health problems identified by the Canada Health Survey. However, part of this difference in the incidence of ill-health may result from the large number of elderly women, who generally are subject to more sickness. The five most common problems reported by women were arthritis and rheumatism, skin disorders, hay fever and other allergies, limb and joint disorders, and hypertension. For men, the leading health problems tended to be the same as for women, although in a slightly different order; however, among men hypertension ranked seventh while dental

**Figure 1** Life Expectancy at Birth, 1941-1981



Source: Table 1

**Figure 2** Cardiovascular Fitness, 1981



Source: Table 7

problems stood fifth (Table 8).

Several health problems were especially characteristic of women: 88% of those with anemia, 86% of those with thyroid problems, 74% of those suffering headaches and 65% of those with arthritis and rheumatism were women. Men, on the other hand, reported the majority of cases of gastric and duodenal ulcers, hearing disorders, and trauma.

The higher incidence of health problems among women appears to translate into greater losses of activity days because of illness. In 1978-79, women lost over twice as many days to illness as men -- nine days on average per woman compared with four days per man (Table 9). Women working outside the home lost two and a quarter more days than their male counterparts, and women whose major activity was housework reported that ill health prevented them from performing their everyday tasks, on average, almost 13 days a year.

**Demands on Health Services:** Women make greater use of medical resources than do men. However, in many instances, women's consultations with a doctor or hospital visits are related to child-bearing, not to illness.

According to the Canada Health Survey, women visited medical doctors both in larger numbers and more frequently than did men. In 1978-79, 82% of women had consulted a medical doctor in the preceding 12 months, compared with 72% of men, and almost twice the percentage of women -- 12% compared with 7% of men had visited a doctor 10 or more times (Table 10). The greatest differences between the number of consultations for women and men were for those in the 20-44 age range. More than

85% of women in these age groups had consulted a physician compared with less than 70% of the men. The percentage of women over 65 seeking medical consultation was not much greater than that of younger women. By contrast, older men consulted doctors considerably more often than did younger men. Still a higher percentage of elderly women (87%) saw a doctor at least once during the year than did older men (83%), and older women went to the doctor more often than did older men.

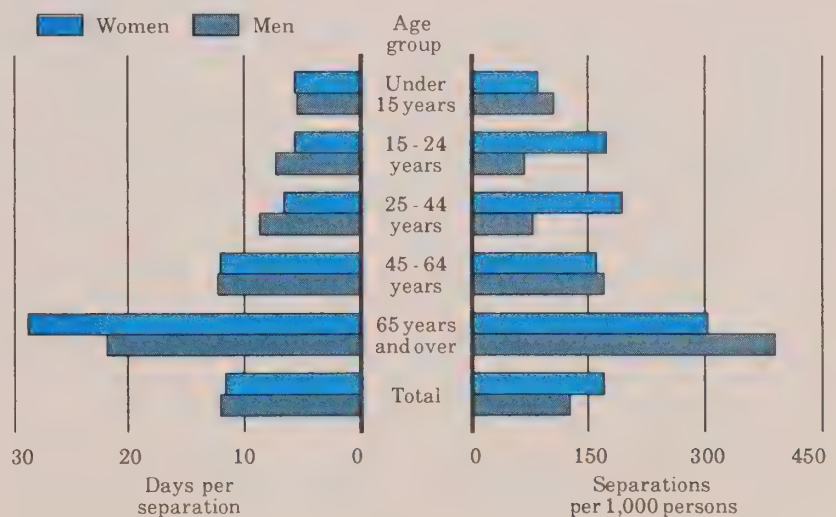
Women spend more time in hospital. In 1980-81, there were 171 hospital separations<sup>2</sup> for every 1,000 women aged 15 and over, compared with 125 for men (Table 11). The difference was most pronounced in the 15-44 age range in which hospital visits by women outnumbered those of men by roughly three to one, although hospital stays by women aged 15-44 averaged two days less per visit than did those of men in this age category.

These trends are reversed

in the population 65 and over: elderly men are hospitalized more often than elderly women but elderly women stay in hospital for longer periods. In 1980-81, there were 391 hospital separations for every 1,000 men aged 65 and over compared with 306 for older women. Elderly women, on the other hand, averaged 29 days per visit compared with 22 days per stay for men.

The large difference in hospitalization rates of women and men aged 15-44 is explained largely by the number of women entering hospital for delivery of a child. In fact, when cases related to pregnancy and female reproductive organs are excluded, the total hospitalization of women and men is roughly equal. Childbirth is the leading cause of hospitalization of women in Canada, making up 17% of all hospital separations (Table 12); no other single cause accounted for more than 6% of separations of either women or men. After childbirth, the leading

**Figure 3** Hospitalization by Age, 1980-81



Source: Table 11

<sup>2</sup> Hospital statistics are based on separations rather than admissions. A separation occurs when a patient is either discharged from hospital or dies.



reason women were hospitalized was diseases of the uterus and other genital organs, whereas among men the leading cause of hospitalization was heart disease (Table 13).

There have also been significant developments related to childbirth. While there was very little change in the total number of live births in the 1970-1980 period, the number of births by Caesarian section increased from 22,000 to more than 55,000. At the same time, however, the number of maternal deaths in 1981 was reduced to approximately one-third the number in 1970 (Table 14).

**Abortion:** In 1982, over 66,000 therapeutic abortions were performed by accredited hospitals in Canada, up from 31,000 in 1971 (Table 15). The actual number of abortions to Canadian women may be substantially higher, as abortions performed illegally, or outside of Canada, are not included. And although the number of therapeutic abortions more than doubled between 1971

and 1982, most of the increase occurred before 1979. Since 1979, abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 have declined slightly from 11.6 to 11.1.

Almost one-third of all therapeutic abortions in 1982 were performed on women aged 20-24. This is also the only age group in which the abortion rate has increased since the late 1970s (Table 16).

#### Therapeutic Drug Usage:

According to the Canada Health Survey, women were more likely than men to use therapeutic drugs: in 1978-79, 55% of women and 41% of men used some type of drug (Table 17). In terms of specific drugs, 17% of women compared with 10% of men took pain relievers; for tranquilizers or sleeping pills, the percentages were 7% for women and 3% for men.

Drug usage generally increases with age; however, persons under 15 consume more drugs than 15-19 year-olds, largely because of greater consumption of vitamins and cold remedies. Women over 65

were the greatest users of therapeutic drugs in 1978-79: 77% reported taking some form of drug, with heart or blood pressure medication (41%) the most prominent type of drug.

**Mental Health:** The Canada Health Survey used two indicators of mental health, both of which suggest that women are less happy and more prone to anxiety and depression than are men.

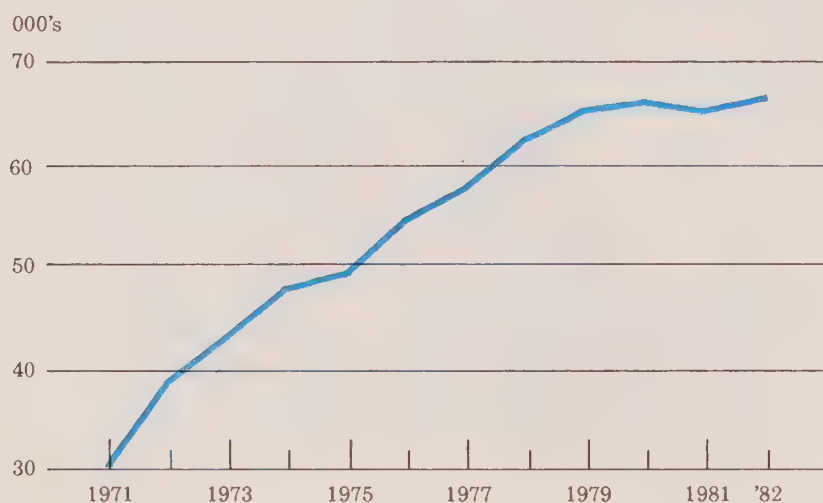
The Affect Balance Scale measured positive and negative feelings about oneself and one's environment (Table 18). According to this measure, a slightly higher percentage of women than men had negative feelings, although the figures were small for both -- 5.2% of women and 3.5% of men. Women who had jobs outside the home reported fewer negative feelings than did women at home. On the other hand, a slightly higher proportion of women in the work force had negative feelings than did their male counterparts.

The Health Opinion Survey, which measured anxiety and depression also indicated that women were more likely than men to experience these feelings frequently: 6% of women versus 2% of men (Table 19). Women who were unemployed and those not in the labour force were more prone to these symptoms than were individuals who had jobs.

But while women report greater emotional distress than men, they are less often hospitalized for mental health problems and are less likely to take their own lives.

**Mental and Psychiatric Hospital Care:**<sup>3</sup> In 1981-82, 14,200 Canadian women were released from a mental or

**Figure 4** Therapeutic Abortions, 1971-1982



Source: Table 15

<sup>3</sup> As with regular hospitals, total separations represent the only available patient count for mental and psychiatric hospitals. As a result, patients are only counted when they leave the hospital. Mental and psychiatric hospital data are also incomplete in the sense that separations from psychiatric wards in regular hospitals are not included.

psychiatric hospital, but they made up only 41% of all patients released that year (Table 20). Women had a lower rate of hospitalization in mental and psychiatric hospitals than men at all ages. For every 100,000 women aged 25-64, 168 were institutionalized; for men, the figure was 242. For the population 65 and over, institutionalization rates were 161 among men and 149 among women although more women than men 65 years and over were in mental and psychiatric hospitals. The difference in institutionalization was greatest among 15-24 year-olds, as the rate for men was almost double that for women -- 188 compared with 96. There were also considerable differences in the reasons for being in psychiatric hospitals. Schizophrenia was the primary reason for both the sexes, however, affective psychoses and neuroses were the next major illnesses of women, whereas for men the next most important problems were alcoholism and personality disorders.

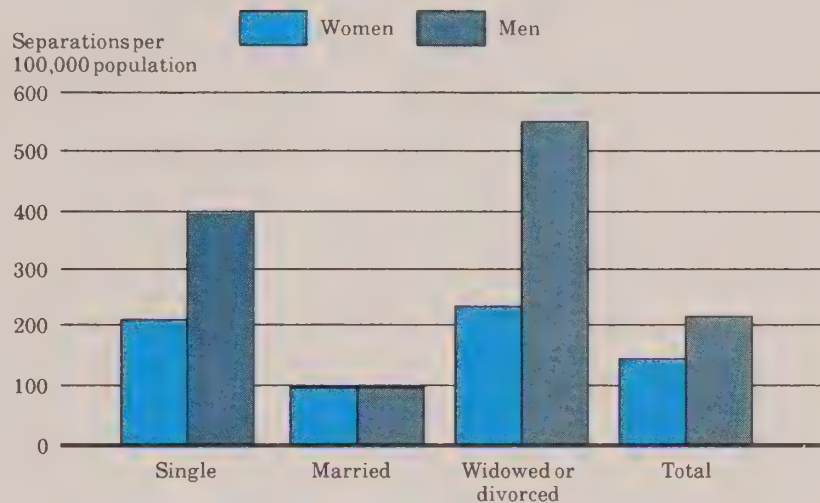
Married people were less likely to be in a psychiatric hospital than were those who were single, or widowed or divorced. In 1981-82, the rate for both married women and married men was just under 100 per 100,000 persons (Table 21). In comparison, the rate for single women was 217 and for single men, 401. Rates for widowed or divorced people were even higher: 236 for women and 551 for men.

**Suicide:** Men are far more likely to take their own lives than are women. In 1982, the suicide rate for men aged 15-24 was five and a half times that of women of the same age. The rate for men 25 years and over was more than three times that of their female contemporaries (Table 22).

poraries (Table 22).

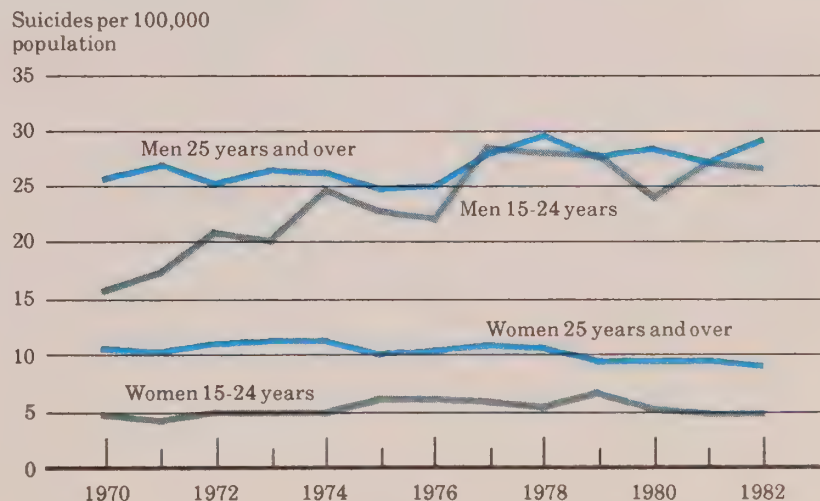
The suicide rate for women aged 15-24 was the same in 1982 as in 1970, and the rate for women 25 and older underwent a net decline. In contrast, rates for men, especially those aged 15-24, were higher in 1982 than in 1970.

**Figure 5** Mental and Psychiatric Hospital Separations, by Marital Status, 1981-82



Source: Table 21

**Figure 6** Suicide Rates, 1970-1982



Source: Table 22



**Table 1** Life Expectancy, by Age, 1941-1981

	Life Expectancy at							
	Birth		Age 20		Age 40		Age 65	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Years								
1941	66.3	63.0	51.8	49.6	34.0	31.9	14.1	12.8
1951	70.8	66.3	54.4	50.8	35.6	32.5	15.0	13.3
1956	72.9	67.6	55.8	51.2	36.7	32.7	15.6	13.4
1961	74.2	68.4	56.7	51.5	37.5	33.0	16.1	13.5
1966	75.2	68.8	57.4	51.5	38.2	33.0	16.7	13.6
1971	76.4	69.3	58.2	51.7	39.0	33.2	17.5	13.7
1976	77.5	70.2	59.0	52.1	39.7	33.6	18.0	14.0
1981	79.0	71.9	60.1	53.4	40.7	34.7	18.9	14.6

**Source:** *Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-206.

**Table 2** Life Expectancy and Disability-free Life Expectancy, by Age, 1978

	Life Expectancy		Disability-free Life Expectancy	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Years				
Age				
At birth	78.3	70.8	62.8	59.2
At age 15	64.5	57.2	49.4	46.2
At age 25	54.8	48.1	40.4	37.6
At age 45	35.7	29.6	23.6	20.6
At age 65	18.7	14.4	9.9	8.2

**Source:** Russell Wilkins and Owen Adams, "Health Expectancy in Canada, Late 1970s: Demographic, Regional and Social Dimensions", *American Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 73, No. 9, September 1983.

**Table 3** Major Causes of Death, 1982

	Women		Men	
	No.	%	No.	%
Diseases of the heart	25,527	33.4	33,856	34.5
Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	18,515	24.2	23,449	23.9
Cerebrovascular disease	8,186	10.7	6,334	6.5
Respiratory diseases	4,664	6.1	7,574	7.7
Accidents (including poisonings and violence)	4,120	5.4	10,045	10.2
Sub-total	61,012	79.9	81,258	82.9
Other causes	15,347	20.1	16,796	17.1
Total	76,359	100.0	98,054	100.0

**Source:** *Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-206.

**Table 4** Type of Drinker and Weekly Volume of Alcohol Consumed, by Age Group, 1978-79

	15-19 years		20-24 years		25-44 years		45-64 years		65 years and over		All Ages	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Never drank	20.8	15.8	7.2	3.4	8.3	3.4	19.7	5.6	34.2	14.3	16.0	6.8
Former drinker	3.1	1.3	2.6	2.1	2.8	3.5	3.2	6.2	4.0	10.0	3.1	4.4
Occasional drinker	18.5	13.7	16.9	5.7	22.2	9.8	19.2	8.1	21.6	13.8	20.2	9.8
Current drinkers and weekly volume of alcohol consumed:												
Less than one drink	9.1	10.1	13.2	7.3	9.8	5.8	6.4	6.0	5.0	6.7	8.7	6.8
1-6 drinks	23.7	22.5	36.4	25.5	34.1	28.2	24.1	25.5	10.4	13.9	27.5	24.9
7-13 drinks	10.2	11.1	11.8	20.8	10.9	19.4	8.6	17.1	3.7	11.9	9.4	17.1
14 drinks and over	5.5	12.6	8.1	31.0	5.0	21.6	4.1	18.0	1.6	9.6	4.8	19.4
Weekly volume not known	3.6	4.4	1.6	2.5	4.1	6.2	8.4	10.0	8.6	11.8	5.4	7.0
Total current drinkers	52.1	60.7	71.1	87.2	63.9	81.3	51.5	76.5	29.3	53.9	55.7	75.2
Type of drinker unknown	5.4	8.4	2.2	1.6	2.8	1.9	6.3	3.6	10.8	8.0	5.0	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population 000's	1,146	1,187	1,108	1,106	3,242	3,230	2,279	2,174	1,132	887	8,907	8,584

**Source:** *The Health of Canadians: Report of the Canada Health Survey*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-538.

**Table 5** Percentage of the Population 15 Years and Over Who are Regular Cigarette Smokers, 1966-1983

	Women		Men	
	15-19 years	15 years and over	15-19 years	15 years and over
	%	%	%	%
1966	20.0	32.1	35.1	53.6
1971	25.2	32.2	33.5	48.4
1973	28.6	32.4	34.4	47.8
1975	27.4	31.4	29.5	43.3
1977	26.7	31.1	26.9	40.8
1979	26.0	30.1	26.8	38.6
1981	23.4	28.9	22.8	36.7
1983	20.3	28.3	20.3	34.0

Source: Labour Force Survey Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 6** Activity Level, by Age Group, 1981

	Active <sup>1</sup>		Moderate <sup>2</sup>		Sedentary <sup>3</sup>		Total <sup>4</sup>	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%	%	%	000's	000's
Age group								
10-14	72	77	19	15	6	6	932	980
15-19	67	70	25	23	7	7	1,129	1,178
20-39	53	55	37	37	9	6	4,073	4,087
40-59	48	46	34	39	16	11	2,511	2,493
60 and over	53	53	21	25	24	18	1,865	1,471
Total	55	57	30	32	13	9	10,509	10,208

<sup>1</sup> Active on average at least 3 hours a week for 9 months or more of the year.

<sup>2</sup> Active less than 3 hours a week for 9 months or more of the year or an average of at least 3 hours a week for less than 9 months of the year.

<sup>3</sup> Active less than 3 hours a week for less than 9 months of the year.

<sup>4</sup> Includes unknown.

Source: *Fitness and Lifestyle in Canada*, Fitness and Amateur Sport, May 1983.

**Table 7** Cardiovascular Fitness, by Age Group, 1981<sup>1</sup>

Age group	Level Achieved									
	Recommended		Minimum		Undesirable		Screened Out <sup>2</sup>		Total <sup>3</sup>	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	000's	000's
7-14	71.9	82.3	18.9	7.3	3.1	4.0	3.2	3.2	1,447	1,524
15-19	31.9	56.3	50.5	35.0	5.5	1.4	8.9	5.3	1,129	1,178
20-29	40.9	35.1	41.8	50.3	3.1	4.2	11.3	7.8	2,254	2,251
30-39	30.7	53.4	45.0	32.4	6.1	2.1	14.6	8.3	1,820	1,837
40-59	34.5	49.3	28.3	17.7	2.9	2.2	30.9	27.0	2,511	2,493
60-69	24.2	38.0	12.0	3.2	3.0	1.4	58.2	52.3	970	852
Total	39.3	51.7	33.9	26.8	3.9	2.7	19.8	15.4	10,131	11,134

<sup>1</sup> Measures of cardiovascular fitness are based on the ability of the heart and lungs to move oxygen from the air to the muscles which need it for energy production. In the case of the Canada Fitness Survey, a step test was used, in which the subject steps to music for three sessions of three minutes. The person's pulse is taken after each session to determine cardiovascular fitness.

<sup>2</sup> Persons who for health reasons might be at risk during the testing were screened out.

<sup>3</sup> Total includes those who refused to be tested.

**Source:** *Fitness and Lifestyle in Canada*, Fitness and Amateur Sport, May 1983.



**Table 8** Prevalence of Health Problems, 1978-79<sup>1</sup>

Type of health problem	Women	Men	Women's Problems as a % of Total
	000's	000's	
Arthritis/rheumatism	1,596	844	65.4
Skin disorders	1,308	756	63.4
Hay fever/other allergies	1,170	987	54.2
Limb and joint disorders	1,153	1,182	49.4
Hypertension	963	588	62.1
Dental problems	958	739	56.5
Headache	809	292	73.5
Sight disorders	750	449	62.5
Mental disorders	637	363	63.7
Acute respiratory	426	355	54.5
Hearing disorders	422	607	41.0
Heart disease	418	429	49.4
Digestive disorders	401	286	58.4
Influenza	384	296	56.5
Anemia	366	52	87.6
Bronchitis and emphysema	283	279	50.4
Trauma	268	349	43.4
Asthma	257	290	47.0
Thyroid disorders	256	41	86.2
Diabetes	230	149	60.7
Gastric/duodenal ulcers	199	282	41.4
Other	1,715	945	64.5
Total problems	14,967	10,559	58.6

<sup>1</sup> These data refer to total health problems, not to the number of individuals claiming to have health problems, that is, an individual may report more than one health problem.

**Source:** *The Health of Canadians: Report of the Canada Health Survey*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-538.

**Table 9** Major Activity Days Lost Because of Illness, 1978-79

	Days Lost		Days Lost per Person	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	000's	000's		
Major activity				
Working outside the home	17,269	20,044	5.75	3.54
Housework	52,572	--	12.79	--
School	13,348	10,327	7.20	5.19
Total	83,188	30,977	9.28	4.03

-- Numbers too small to be expressed; as a result column does not add up to total.

**Source:** *The Health of Canadians: Report of the Canada Health Survey*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-538.

**Table 10** Frequency of Consultations with a Medical Doctor During Last 12 Months, by Age Group, 1978-79

	Under 15 years		15-19 years		20-24 years		25-44 years		45-64 years		65 years and over		All Ages	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Frequency of consultations														
No consultation	24.4	20.7	28.8	40.5	11.6	31.9	13.9	32.4	16.9	26.6	13.4	16.8	18.1	28.0
1-2 consultations	44.7	45.4	40.4	40.0	42.1	43.0	42.2	44.7	37.9	38.6	29.6	32.7	40.5	42.1
3-9 consultations	25.5	28.3	22.9	14.8	34.0	20.4	29.1	17.6	29.6	23.6	34.0	32.1	28.7	22.5
10 consultations and over	5.0	5.3	7.0	4.3	11.3	3.4	14.3	4.2	15.1	10.4	22.4	17.7	12.1	6.7
Unknown	--	--	--	--	--	1.3	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.6	--	0.6	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population 000's	2,698	2,832	1,146	1,187	1,108	1,106	3,242	3,230	2,279	2,174	1,132	887	11,606	11,417

-- Numbers too small to be expressed; as a result columns may not add to totals.

**Source:** *The Health of Canadians: Report of the Canada Health Survey*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-538.

**Table 11** Hospital Separations<sup>1</sup> and Days of Care in Hospital, by Age Group, 1980-81

	Separations per 1,000 Population		Days per 1,000 Population		Days per Separation	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Age group						
Under 15	82.0	103.8	459.9	565.5	5.6	5.5
15-24	173.8	67.8	929.6	502.5	5.3	7.4
25-44	193.5	77.5	1,258.9	667.5	6.5	8.6
45-64	157.7	170.5	1,951.1	2,123.6	12.4	12.5
65 and over	305.7	390.8	8,927.0	8,675.4	29.2	22.2
Total	170.5	125.4	1,986.4	1,551.4	11.7	12.4

<sup>1</sup> A separation occurs when a patient is either discharged from hospital or dies.

Source: *Hospital Morbidity*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-206.

**Table 12** Ten Leading Causes of Hospitalization of Women, 1978

	Separations	
	No.	%
Delivery	353,684	17.0
Diseases of uterus and other genital organs	113,800	5.5
Symptoms referable to systems or organs	86,446	4.2
Other factors influencing health status	82,726	4.0
Complications of pregnancy	65,823	3.2
Other diseases of upper respiratory tract	65,181	3.1
Diseases of liver, gallbladder and pancreas	62,672	3.0
Abortion	57,692	2.8
Neuroses, personality disorders and other non-psychotic mental disorders	55,220	2.7
Ischemic heart disease	51,573	2.5
Sub-total	994,817	47.9
Other causes	1,083,056	52.1
Total	2,077,873	100.0

Source: *Hospital Morbidity*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-206.

**Table 13** Ten Leading Causes of Hospitalization of Men, 1978

	Separations	
	No.	%
Ischemic heart disease	87,660	5.9
Symptoms referable to systems or organs	71,121	4.8
Other diseases of upper respiratory tract	69,991	4.7
Hernia of abdominal cavity	55,022	3.7
Diseases of genital organs	51,293	3.5
Neuroses, personality disorders and other non-psychotic mental disorders	50,012	3.4
Osteomyelitis and other diseases of bones and joints	47,981	3.2
Acute respiratory infections except influenza	44,778	3.0
Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma	42,293	2.8
Pneumonia	37,762	2.5
Sub-total	557,912	37.6
Other causes	927,460	62.4
Total	1,485,373	100.0

Source: *Hospital Morbidity*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-206.

**Table 14** Live Births, Caesarian Sections, and Maternal Deaths, 1970-1981

	Total Live Births	Caesarian Sections		Maternal Deaths	
		No.	As a % of Live Births	No.	Rate per 100,000 Live Births
1970	371,988	22,264	6.0	75	20.2
1971	362,187	24,038	6.6	66	18.2
1972	347,319	25,508	7.3	54	15.5
1973	343,373	28,260	8.2	37	10.8
1974	350,650	31,958	9.1	35	10.0
1975	359,323	35,620	9.9	27	7.5
1976	359,987	40,344	11.2	24	6.7
1977	361,400	45,385	12.6	18	5.0
1978	358,852	50,879	14.2	23	6.4
1979	366,064	53,759	14.7	27	7.4
1980	370,709	55,414	14.9	28	7.6
1981	371,346	..	..	23	6.2

.. Figures not available.

Sources: *Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-204.  
*Vital Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-206.  
*Hospital Morbidity*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-206.  
Health Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.



**Table 15** Therapeutic Abortions, 1971-1982

	Total Therapeutic Abortions	Rate per 100 Live Births	Rate per 1,000 Women 15-44 Years
1971	30,949	8.5	6.6
1972	38,905	11.2	8.2
1973	43,245	12.6	8.9
1974	48,198	13.7	9.6
1975	49,390	13.7	9.6
1976	54,536	15.1	10.3
1977	57,620	15.9	10.6
1978	62,351	17.4	11.3
1979	65,135	17.8	11.6
1980	65,855	17.7	11.5
1981	65,127	17.5	11.1
1982	66,319	17.8	11.1

**Source:** *Therapeutic Abortions*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-211.

**Table 16** Therapeutic Abortions, by Age Group, 1974-1982<sup>1</sup>

	Under 15 years		15-19 years		20-24 years		25 years and over		All Ages	
	No. <sup>2</sup>	Rate per 1,000 Women <sup>3</sup>	No.	Rate per 1,000 Women	No.	Rate per 1,000 Women	No.	Rate per 1,000 Women	No.	Rate per 1,000 Women <sup>4</sup>
1974	573	1.2	14,509	13.6	14,070	14.1	18,984	6.5	48,136	8.8
1975	597	1.3	14,850	13.2	14,354	13.8	19,510	6.5	49,311	8.8
1976	665	1.4	16,068	14.0	16,151	15.1	21,594	7.0	54,478	9.5
1977	670	1.5	17,055	14.7	17,443	15.9	22,396	7.1	57,564	9.8
1978	599	1.3	18,377	15.8	19,256	17.2	24,058	7.4	62,290	10.4
1979	647	1.5	19,110	16.4	20,520	18.1	24,766	7.4	65,043	10.7
1980	559	1.4	18,937	16.4	20,926	18.2	25,329	7.4	65,751	10.7
1981	548	1.4	17,858	15.8	21,027	18.0	25,620	7.2	65,053	10.4
1982	516	1.4	17,241	15.7	21,760	18.5	26,737	7.2	66,254	10.4

<sup>1</sup> Includes abortions performed on Canadian residents; figures in Table 15 include all abortions performed in Canada.<sup>2</sup> Excludes Newfoundland.<sup>3</sup> Rate per 1,000 girls aged 13-14.<sup>4</sup> Rate per 1,000 women aged 13-44.Source: *Therapeutic Abortions*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-211.

Table 17 Therapeutic Drug Use, by Age Group, 1978-79

Class of drug used:	Under 15 years		15-19 years		20-24 years		25-44 years		45-64 years		65 years and over		All Ages	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Pain reliever	8.4	7.5	11.1	6.4	14.6	8.5	19.8	11.2	23.0	13.5	24.6	16.1	16.9	10.3
Tranquilizer or sleeping pill	--	--	--	--	2.3	--	5.2	2.4	13.7	6.6	19.7	10.4	6.5	3.0
Heart/blood pressure medicine	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.7	1.4	18.7	14.1	40.9	29.1	8.2	5.4
Antibiotic	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.6	3.5	2.1	3.4	1.7	2.6	2.6	2.2	1.8	3.0	2.3
Stomach medicine	--	--	1.1	--	2.5	2.1	3.6	4.0	6.1	4.4	7.1	7.1	3.4	2.9
Laxative	--	--	--	--	1.4	--	2.8	0.8	6.6	1.7	12.3	9.3	3.6	1.5
Cold remedy	10.6	11.2	4.8	4.0	6.0	3.8	5.6	4.4	5.3	3.7	6.1	4.3	6.7	5.9
Skin ointment	6.1	5.2	8.9	7.1	8.8	3.9	6.7	3.6	6.5	3.0	5.9	4.7	6.9	4.4
Vitamins	30.5	30.7	19.9	13.6	26.3	14.3	25.1	14.2	23.5	18.2	23.5	18.8	25.5	19.3
Other drugs	2.4	2.1	4.1	2.5	9.6	2.7	9.8	2.6	19.2	8.9	23.5	18.6	10.6	5.0
Any drug use	45.3	44.4	39.3	28.6	50.3	28.6	53.5	34.0	67.1	48.6	77.0	66.4	54.8	40.8
Total population 000's	2,698	2,832	1,146	1,187	1,108	1,106	3,242	3,230	2,279	2,174	1,132	887	11,606	11,417

-- Number too small to be expressed.

Source: *The Health of Canadians: Report of the Canada Health Survey*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-538.

**Table 18** "Affect Balance Scale" Scores of the Population 15 Years and Over, by Major Activity, 1978-79

	Affect Balance Scale Scores					Total Population  000's
	Positive	Mixed	Negative	Unknown	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Working outside the home						
Women	46.9	41.5	3.9	7.8	100.0	3,100
Men	49.3	40.3	3.0	7.4	100.0	6,013
Housework						
Women	44.0	38.5	5.6	11.8	100.0	4,213
School						
Women	42.4	48.8	6.5	2.3	100.0	1,041
Men	45.0	46.0	3.5 *	5.4 *	100.0	1,167
Inactive (health reasons)						
Women	29.0 *	39.1 *	19.4 *	12.5 *	100.0	117
Men	22.6	43.8	8.0 *	25.7	100.0	331
Inactive (other reasons)						
Women	35.8	34.9	3.8 *	25.6 *	100.0	436
Men	41.5	33.6	5.5	19.4	100.0	1,046
Total						
Women	44.2	40.6	5.2	10.0	100.0	8,907
Men	46.8	40.4	3.5	9.3	100.0	8,584

\* Sampling error is high (20-39%); therefore, caution should be exercised in interpreting these figures.

**Source:** *The Health of Canadians: Report of the Canada Health Survey*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-538.

**Table 19** "Health Opinion Survey" Scores of the Population 15 Years and Over, by Major Activity, 1978-79

	Infrequent Symptoms of Anxiety and Depression	Frequent Symptoms of Anxiety and Depression	Unknown	Total	Total Population
	%	%	%	%	000's
Employed					
Women	95.0	3.6	1.5	100.0	3,521
Men	96.8	1.3	1.9	100.0	6,022
Unemployed					
Women	91.4	7.5 *	1.1	100.0	628
Men	94.3	4.3 *	1.3	100.0	530
Not in the Labour Force					
Women	88.2	6.8	5.0	100.0	4,657
Men	88.7	4.8	6.4	100.0	1,942
Unknown					
Women	84.3	--	9.8	100.0	102
Men	95.6	--	1.1	100.0	90
Total					
Women	91.1	5.5	3.4	100.0	8,907
Men	94.8	2.3	2.9	100.0	8,584

\* Sampling error is high (20-39%); therefore, caution should be exercised in interpreting these figures.

-- Number too small to be expressed; as a result rows may not add to total.

**Source:** Canada Health Survey, Health and Welfare Canada and Statistics Canada, unpublished data.



**Table 20** Mental and Psychiatric Hospital Separations, by Age Group, 1981-82

	15-24 years	25-64 years	65 years and over	Total	
					%
Schizophrenia					
Women	389	2,939	257	3,585	25.3
Men	1,378	4,749	173	6,300	31.0
Alcoholism					
Women	74	561	41	676	4.8
Men	292	2,670	147	3,109	15.3
Affective psychoses					
Women	185	1,916	431	2,532	17.9
Men	215	1,528	258	2,001	9.9
Personality disorders					
Women	513	747	27	1,287	9.1
Men	912	1,349	27	2,288	11.3
Neuroses					
Women	207	1,160	199	1,566	11.0
Men	184	773	98	1,055	5.2
Other diagnoses					
Women	830	2,650	1,053	4,533	32.0
Men	1,456	3,174	923	5,553	27.3
Total					
Women	2,198	9,973	2,008	14,179	100.0
Men	4,437	14,243	1,626	20,306	100.0
Separations per 100,000 population aged 15 and over					
Women	95.5	167.6	148.8	147.6	...
Men	188.3	241.8	160.9	219.4	...

... Figures not applicable.

**Source:** *Mental Health Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 83-204.

**Table 21** Mental and Psychiatric Hospital Separations, by Marital Status, 1981-82

	Single	Married	Widowed or Divorced	Not Stated	Total
Schizophrenia					
Women	1,588	1,242	676	79	3,585
Men	4,956	749	409	186	6,300
Alcoholism					
Women	139	392	142	3	676
Men	876	1,575	555	103	3,109
Affective psychoses					
Women	567	1,272	616	77	2,532
Men	784	853	284	80	2,001
Personality disorders					
Women	690	374	179	44	1,287
Men	1,476	489	224	99	2,288
Neuroses					
Women	352	858	344	12	1,566
Men	394	514	128	19	1,055
Other diagnoses					
Women	1,766	1,650	1,013	104	4,533
Men	3,120	1,630	643	160	5,553
Total					
Women	5,102	5,788	2,970	319	14,179
Men	11,606	5,810	2,243	647	20,306
Separations per 100,000 population aged 15 and over					
Women	216.8	96.6	236.0	...	147.6
Men	400.6	97.6	550.7	...	219.4

... Figures not applicable.

**Source:** *Mental Health Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 83-204.

**Table 22** Suicide Rates, by Age Group, 1970-1982

	Women		Men	
	15-24 years	25 years and over	15-24 years	25 years and over
per 100,000 population				
1970	4.8	10.6	15.9	26.0
1971	4.4	10.6	17.6	27.2
1972	5.1	11.2	21.1	25.8
1973	5.1	11.4	20.3	26.9
1974	5.0	11.3	24.6	26.5
1975	6.0	10.2	22.7	25.0
1976	6.2	10.6	22.5	25.6
1977	5.9	10.9	28.8	28.1
1978	5.7	10.8	28.1	30.0
1979	6.6	9.8	27.9	28.1
1980	5.4	9.8	24.1	28.6
1981	4.9	9.8	27.2	27.6
1982	4.8	9.1	26.8	29.4

**Sources:** *Causes of Death*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-203.

*Health and Economic Activity: A Time Series Analysis of Canadian Mortality and Unemployment Rates, 1950-1977*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-539.



# CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND VICTIMIZATION

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For the most part women are less often the victims of criminal acts than are men, but certain types of crime, in particular rape and other sexual assaults, are committed almost exclusively against women. These offences rank among the most severe and violent of attacks and can often leave lifelong scars on the victims. In addition, these crimes are growing faster than most other types of violent crime, and the perception exists that society's response to these crimes, through institutions that administer justice, is frequently inadequate.

Women are also charged with illegal activity less often than are men. In fact, criminal charges against women make up only a small percentage of all criminal charges in Canada, and most charges against women are for non-violent, property offences.

**Statistics on Crime:** It is likely that few of the statistics presented in this report are 100% accurate. There will always be some error because, for example, people sometimes do not respond to questions or they give inaccurate answers, however, in most cases, the margin of error is small. Crime statistics, however, are less reliable as social indica-

tors and in some instances the reporting and recording, or lack thereof, of criminal offences are themselves issues.

The principal statistics on crime in Canada are collected from the Uniform Crime Reports submitted to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics at Statistics Canada by all police reporting units in Canada. UCR statistics, however, generally underestimate the actual amount of illegal activity. Only offences known to the police are counted and a large proportion of criminal activity, probably over half, is never reported to police authorities. In addition, UCR data represent a count of criminal incidents of which only the most serious offence is actually recorded; less serious offences in multiple crime incidents are not counted.

As well, police exercise considerable discretion in deciding which crimes will be officially recognized, so even when a crime is known to the police there is no certainty that it will be recorded.

For these reasons, official crime rates do not describe all criminal activity in Canada. Rather, they tend to reflect the amount and type of business conducted by police forces.

The Canadian Urban Victimization Survey, conducted

by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Statistics Canada in 1981, gives some indication of the number of unreported crimes. But this survey, too had several limitations. Its results were heavily dependent on the memory and judgment of respondents: some offences may have been forgotten, while others may have been remembered but placed in the wrong time period. As well the perception of what constitutes a particular offence may differ from one respondent to another. Also, the Victimization Survey covered only seven cities,<sup>1</sup> and only residents of those cities were surveyed with the result that several key populations were either excluded or underrepresented. These include tourists and other travellers, commuters, and persons with no fixed address. In addition, this survey was conducted only once and therefore trends in victimization are not yet available.

It is also important to note that while statistics from the Uniform Crime Reports and the Victimization Survey are complementary, they are drawn from different population bases and include diverse crime categories and, therefore, are not directly comparable.

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<sup>1</sup> Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax-Dartmouth and St. John's.



## Criminal Victimization

**Homicide Victims:** During the 12-year period from 1971 to 1982, a total of 2,557 Canadian women were victims of either murder or manslaughter, representing 35% of all homicide victims during that period (Table 1). There was, however, no discernible trend in the annual percentage of homicide victims who were women. The proportion ranged from highs of 38% in 1972 and 1981 to lows of around 33% in 1977, 1978 and 1982.

Since 1974, the annual number of homicide victims who were women fluctuated between 200 and 250, while the number of women murdered per 100,000 women 15 and over reached a high of 2.8 in 1975 and then fell to 2.3 in 1982.

Women, however, are far more likely than men to be victims of domestic homicide, that is, incidents in which

there is a family or common-law relationship between victim and suspect. In 1982, domestic homicides accounted for 63% of women killed in cases in which the suspect-victim relationship was known; by comparison only 26% of male victims were murdered in domestic situations (Table 2). Men were most likely to be murdered by a social or business acquaintance. Men were also more often victims of homicides committed during other criminal incidents and when there was no known relationship between victim and suspect.

It is difficult to identify any significant shifts in the suspect-victim relationship in homicide incidents. In 1980 and 1981, considerably fewer women were victims of domestic homicides and more were murdered by social or business acquaintances than in the previous four years. The figures for 1982, however, are more characteristic of those for 1976-1979.

## Victims of Sexual Assault and Other Criminal

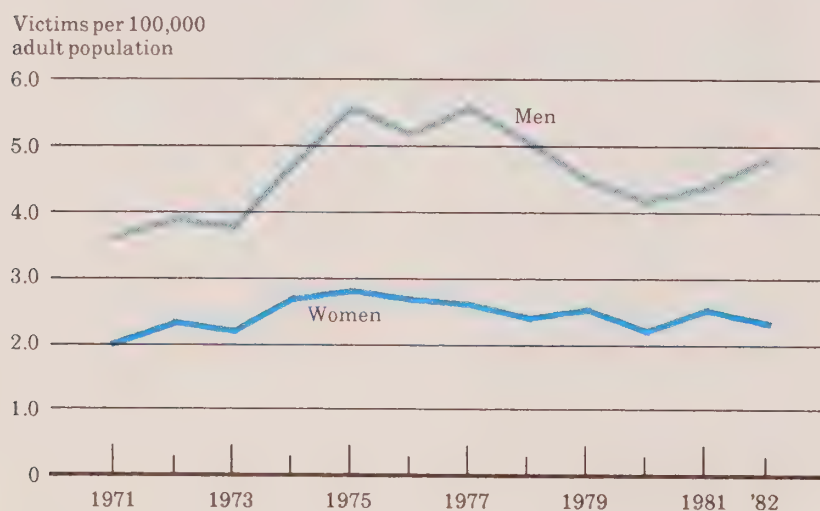
**Offences:** For the most part, women are less likely than men to be victims of criminal acts, especially criminal acts involving violence. The Victimization Survey reported 129 personal offences against women for every 1,000 women aged 16 and over<sup>2</sup> in the survey area, compared with a rate of 154 offences against men (Table 3). Men were at even greater risk of violent attack with 90 violent offences<sup>3</sup> reported per 1,000 men compared with 53 against women.

There is considerable variation by sex, however, within certain offence categories. Women are about seven times more likely than men to be sexually assaulted (including rape, attempted rape, sexual molesting and attempted sexual molesting), and they are also more likely than men to have their personal property stolen. Men, on the other hand, are almost twice as likely as women to be victims of robbery<sup>4</sup> or assault.

Yet while relatively fewer women are victims of crime, police statistics indicate that since the mid-1970s, the increase in sexual offences against women being reported, and recorded by police, has been greater than comparative increases in other types of violent offences. Unfortunately, it is not known to what extent this increase reflects an actual increase in the incidence of these offences, or how much is accounted for by a greater tendency for victims to report attacks or for police to record them.

Between 1976 and 1982, the rate of sexual offences, nearly all of which are committed by men against women, increased 22%, while

**Figure 1** Homicide Victims, 1971-1982



Source: Table 1

<sup>2</sup> Victimization Survey data was collected from individuals aged 16 and over. Most other indicators in this report include individuals 15 and over.

<sup>3</sup> Violent offences in the Victimization Survey included sexual assaults, other assaults and robbery. Violent offences in the Uniform Crime Reports data include these offences plus homicides and attempted murders.

<sup>4</sup> Robbery is distinguished from other thefts in that a weapon is involved or there is the use or threat of violence.

the rate for all other violent offences (excluding robbery) increased by 13%. In terms of specific offences, the largest increase of any violent crime in recent years was for rape (Table 4). During the 1976-1982 period, the number of rapes per 100,000 population rose 29% from 7.9 to 10.2 (Table 4). At the same time, the rate for indecent assault against women rose 25%. On the other hand, the rates for homicide plus attempted murder, and assault went up by only 14% and 13%, respectively.

Women are also more likely to be victimized by an acquaintance or relative. The Victimization Survey reported that 44% of all sexual assaults, other assaults and robberies against women were committed by acquaintances or relatives compared with 26% of those against men (Table 5). As well, 13% of assaults and 7% of sexual assaults against

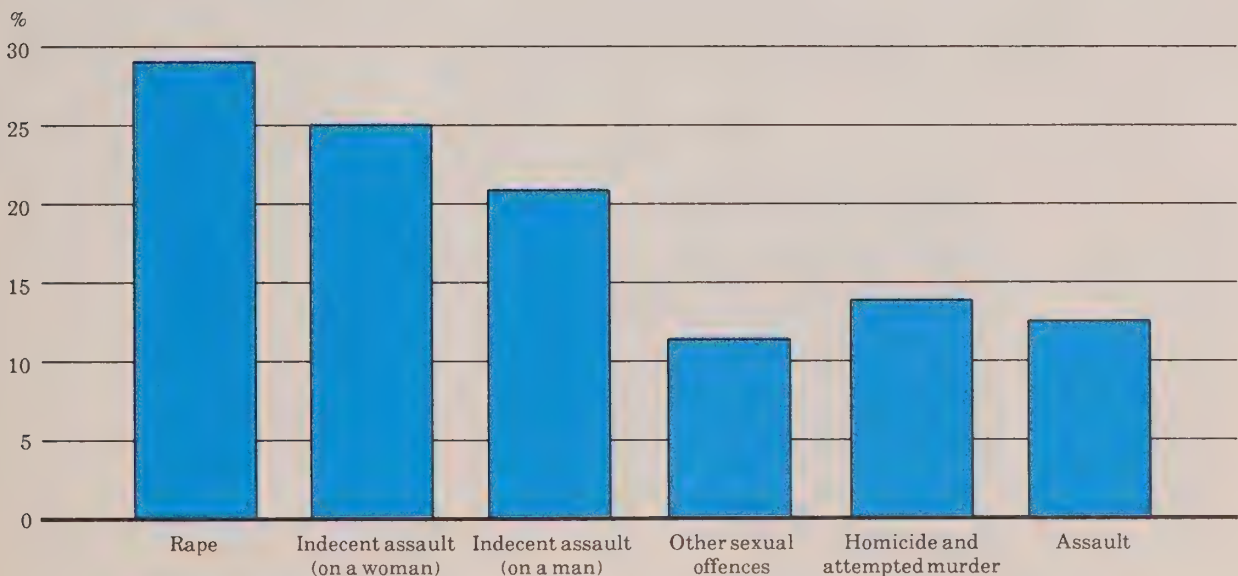
women were committed by relatives. These percentages for men were almost negligible.

**Unreported Offences:** As was noted previously, not all crimes come to the attention of the police. The Victimization Survey found that only 33% of all personal incidents (violent offences plus personal thefts) were ever reported to the police, however, all types of offence were more likely to be reported by female victims than by male victims (Table 6). Reporting of offences involving violence was also generally low: just 34% of all assaults and only 39% of sexual assaults on women were reported to the police.

There are significant differences, though, in the reasons cited by victims of sexual and non-sexual offences for failure to report these incidents to police. For non-sexual assaults and robberies,

the most common reasons were that the incident was "too minor" and that police could do nothing about it (Table 7). The feeling that police could do nothing about the incident was also a major reason for not reporting sexual assaults. Almost half (47%) of sexually assaulted women cited this reason, but concern about the attitude of police or courts and fear of revenge by the offender were also prominent reasons for not reporting sexual assaults, whereas these were minor reasons for not reporting other personal offences. Concern about the attitude of police or courts was cited by 47% of women who had not reported sexual offences, and 35% said they were concerned about revenge. By comparison, generally fewer than 20% of victims of other assaults and robbery were deterred by police or court attitudes, or fear of revenge.

**Figure 2** Percentage Change in Sexual and Other Violent Offences per 100,000 Population, 1976-1982



Source: Table 4



### How Police Handle Sexual Crimes:

Police forces in Canada generally clear<sup>5</sup> or solve about 60% of sexual offences (Table 8). This compares with almost 70% for other violent crimes and over 80% when robbery is excluded. The high "success" rate of the police in solving non-sexual assaults, however, has been achieved largely through cases that are cleared otherwise, possibly because victims refuse to press charges. When only the proportion of offences cleared by charge is considered, sexual offences are more likely to result in charges than other assaults and robbery -- 39% to 32%.

The police record in solving and prosecuting sexual offences has changed only marginally in recent years. Between 1977 and 1982, clearance rates for sexual offences remained stable; for other violent crimes the proportion cleared by charge declined by several percentage points, while the percentage solved otherwise increased slightly (Table 8).

The trend for rape, however, is different (Table 9). The total clearance rate for rape fell from 65% in 1971 to 56% in 1982. At the same time, offences cleared by charge declined from 45% to 41% while those cleared otherwise dropped from 20% to 15%.

Police also exercise considerable discretion in deciding which offences reported to them are recorded as crimes. The actual number of offences -- the UCR figures quoted in this report -- consist of all incidents reported to the police, minus those that are classified as unfounded, that is, an investigation established that the crime did not happen or was not attempted.

Sexual offences, and in particular rape, are characterized by high proportions of offences which are classified as unfounded. In 1982, 30% of reported rapes were listed as unfounded, compared with just 6% of all violent offences. The unfounded rate for rape, however, has declined steadily from 43% in 1972. Again, it is not clear whether this decline

has resulted because the nature of the incidents being reported has changed or whether it is because police norms pertaining to the recording of incidents have evolved.

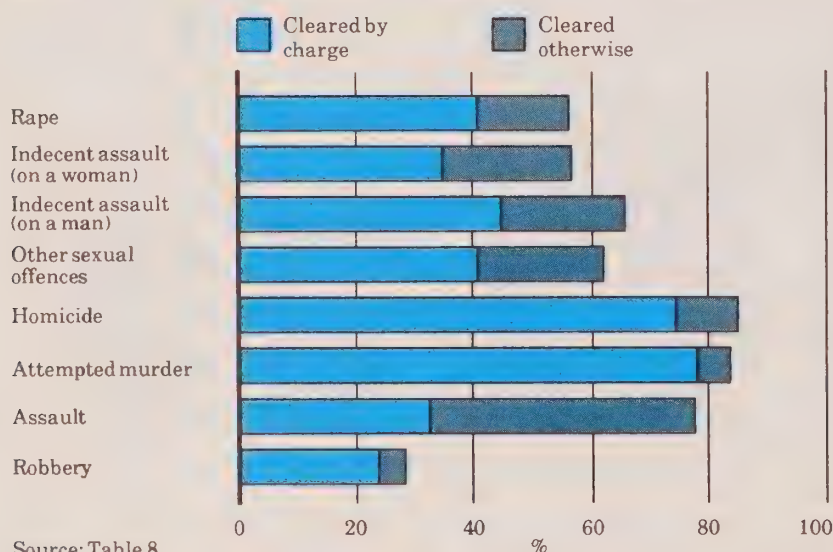
### Criminal Charges Against Women

A small, but growing proportion of people charged with criminal offences are women. In 1982, women made up almost 16% of adults charged with Criminal Code offences, up from 12% in 1971 (Table 10). However, the offences women are charged with tend to be non-violent. Whereas women make up 20% of Canadians charged with property offences, they account for only 10% of charges for violent offences.

As well, the type of property crime for which women and men are charged differs. The vast majority of property crime, and in fact all crime for which women are charged, involves shoplifting or fraud. More than half (53%) of all Criminal Code plus drug offence charges against women in 1982 were for shoplifting or fraud; by comparison, these two offences made up only 17% of charges against men (Table 11). Men, on the other hand, are more likely to be charged with break and enter, and other types of personal theft.

**Women in the Courts:** Comprehensive national data on court proceedings and sentencing patterns are not currently available. Statistics Canada does, however, collect information from several court jurisdictions in British Columbia and Quebec, which

**Figure 3** Sexual and Other Violent Offences Cleared by Charge and Cleared Otherwise, 1982



<sup>5</sup> Clearance rates are rough indicators of how many reported crimes have been solved. Offences can be cleared by charge or cleared otherwise. Offences are cleared by charge when an arrest is made, a summons to appear is issued or a warrant to apprehend is laid against at least one person. An offence is cleared otherwise when the offender has been identified and enough is known to issue a warrant, yet, there is a reason outside of police control that prevents charging, for example, the offender has died, is in a foreign country, the complainant refuses to prosecute, or the offender has diplomatic immunity.

suggests that for some offences women tend to be convicted less often than men, and that when convicted they receive less severe sentences.

In 1980, considerably fewer women charged with violent and drug offences were found guilty than men charged with the same offence types (Table 12). The difference was particularly noticeable for drug offences in which just 46% of women charged were convicted compared with 70% of men. On the other hand, roughly the same percentages of women and men were convicted of property offences and crimes included in the other offence category.

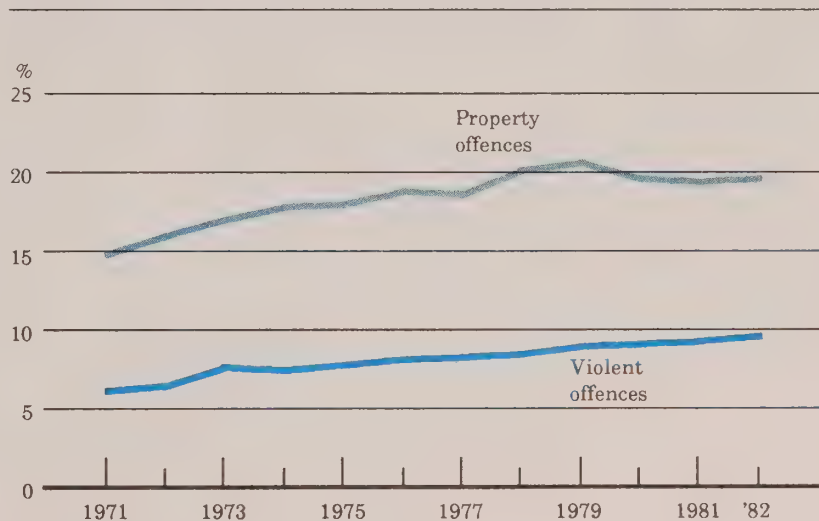
The sentences imposed on women and men also differ markedly (Table 13). Overall, men were twice as likely as women to be sent to an institution, and the ratio rises to three to one when just violent and property offences are considered. Women, on the other hand, were far more likely to be placed on probation, or in the case of property offences, to be fined. Some caution, however, should be exercised in interpreting these differences. Sentences are influenced by the number of charges and the offender's previous criminal history, variables that have not been controlled in these statistics.

**Women in Prison:** It is not surprising, given their low rate of participation in criminal activity and the way they are handled by the courts, that women constitute a very small part of the total Canadian prison population. In 1981-82, women accounted for fewer than 2% of all admissions to federal penitentiaries, just 101 out of a total of 5,454 admissions (Table 14). As well, the proportion of female penitentiary inmates had fallen from 3% in 1978-79.

The penitentiary sentences of women and men differ in several ways. A higher proportion of women

than men in penitentiaries committed crimes that normally carry automatic penitentiary sentences: 53% of women in penitentiaries in 1979 were there for homicide, attempted homicide or narcotics offences as opposed to only 28% of male inmates (Table 15). Compared with men, women had slightly shorter sentences: 60% of them were serving five years or less, whereas this was true of 49% of the men. Finally, a much higher percentage of women released from penitentiary were paroled: 58% versus 36% for men (Table 16).

**Figure 4** Women as a Percentage of Adults Charged, 1971-1982



Source: Table 10

**Table 1** Homicide<sup>1</sup> Victims, 1971-1982

	Female Victims		Male Victims		Women as a % of All Victims
	Total	Per 100,000 Adult Women	Total	Per 100,000 Adult Men	
1971	156	2.0	270	3.6	36.6
1972	183	2.3	297	3.9	38.1
1973	179	2.2	301	3.8	37.3
1974	224	2.7	376	4.7	37.3
1975	236	2.8	465	5.6	33.7
1976	232	2.7	436	5.2	34.7
1977	231	2.6	480	5.6	32.5
1978	215	2.4	446	5.1	32.5
1979	227	2.5	404	4.5	36.0
1980	208	2.2	385	4.2	35.1
1981	244	2.5	403	4.4	37.7
1982	222	2.3	448	4.8	33.1

<sup>1</sup> Includes murder and manslaughter.

Source: *Homicide Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-209.



**Table 2** Homicide<sup>1</sup> Victims by Suspect-Victim Relationship, 1976-1982

	Domestic <sup>2</sup>		Social or Business		No Known Relationship		During Other Criminal Act		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1976										
Women	125	61.6	48	23.6	4	2.0	26	12.8	203	100.0
Men	108	30.7	146	41.5	48	13.6	50	14.2	352	100.0
1977										
Women	115	57.5	44	22.0	12	6.0	29	14.5	200	100.0
Men	103	25.2	177	43.3	55	13.4	74	18.1	409	100.0
1978										
Women	126	64.3	43	21.9	8	4.1	19	9.7	196	100.0
Men	111	29.2	183	48.2	42	11.1	44	11.6	380	100.0
1979										
Women	128	65.3	35	17.9	10	5.1	23	11.7	196	100.0
Men	94	27.2	166	48.1	33	9.6	52	15.1	345	100.0
1980										
Women	95	53.4	55	30.9	10	5.6	18	10.1	178	100.0
Men	72	22.2	148	45.7	52	16.0	52	16.0	324	100.0
1981										
Women	106	52.2	50	24.6	12	5.9	35	17.2	203	100.0
Men	86	26.8	149	46.4	30	9.3	56	17.4	321	100.0
1982										
Women	116	63.0	39	21.2	1	0.5	28	15.2	184	100.0
Men	92	25.6	203	56.5	11	3.1	53	14.8	359	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes murder and manslaughter incidents in which the relationship between victim and suspect is known.

<sup>2</sup> Includes incidents in which there was a family or common-law relationship between victim and suspect.

**Source:** *Homicide Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-209.

**Table 3** Victims of Offences Against the Person, 1981

	Victims per 1,000 Population Aged 16 and Over	
	Women	Men
Sexual assault	5.8	0.8
Robbery	7	13
Assault	39	79
All violent incidents	53	90
Personal theft	74	66
All personal incidents	129	154

Source: *Canadian Urban Victimization Survey*, Solicitor General Canada.

**Table 4** Sexual Offences and Other Violent Offences, 1971-1982

	Rape	Indecent Assault (on a woman)	Indecent Assault (on a man)	Other Sexual Offences	Homicide <sup>2</sup>	Attempted Murder	Assault
Number of Offences							
1971	1,230	..	..	9,951 <sup>1</sup>	473	335	83,015
1972	1,285	..	..	9,582 <sup>1</sup>	519	412	85,135
1973	1,594	..	..	10,401 <sup>1</sup>	540	483	89,695
1974	1,823	5,358	1,167	2,763	578	521	96,864
1975	1,848	5,096	1,152	2,802	696	642	101,886
1976	1,828	5,273	1,116	2,394	668	692	104,914
1977	1,886	5,278	1,344	2,424	707	684	103,931
1978	2,014	5,724	1,223	2,637	658	742	106,301
1979	2,291	6,087	1,376	2,579	631	754	112,911
1980	2,315	6,535	1,314	2,623	593	792	117,111
1981	2,559	6,723	1,268	2,763	647	900	121,076
1982	2,528	7,024	1,438	2,874	670	943	125,912
Per 100,000 Population							
1971	5.7	..	..	46.1 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	1.5	391.4
1972	5.9	..	..	44.0 <sup>1</sup>	2.2	1.9	397.8
1973	7.2	..	..	47.2 <sup>1</sup>	2.1	2.2	414.5
1974	8.1	23.9	5.2	12.3	2.4	2.3	431.5
1975	8.1	22.4	5.1	12.3	2.8	2.8	446.9
1976	7.9	22.8	4.8	10.4	2.7	3.0	454.0
1977	8.0	22.6	5.7	10.4	2.6	2.9	446.2
1978	8.6	24.3	5.2	11.2	2.7	3.2	452.0
1979	9.6	25.7	5.8	10.8	2.7	3.2	475.5
1980	9.6	27.3	5.4	10.9	2.5	3.3	487.1
1981	10.5	27.7	5.2	11.4	2.6	3.6	497.3
1982	10.2	28.5	5.8	11.6	2.7	3.8	511.1

<sup>1</sup> Includes indecent assault.

<sup>2</sup> Includes murder and manslaughter.

.. Figures not available.

Source: *Crime and Traffic Enforcement Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-205.

**Table 5** Relationship of Victim to Offender in Violent Crimes, 1981

	Stranger	Acquaintance	Relative	Total
	%	%	%	%
Female victims				
Sexual assault	60	33	7 *	100
Robbery	78	17	5	100
Assault	51	36	13	100
Total	56	33	11	100
Male victims				
Sexual assault	64	**	**	100
Robbery	85	14	**	100
Assault	73	25	2	100
Total	75	24	2	100

\* The actual count was low (11 to 20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this figure.

\*\* The actual count was too low to make statistically reliable estimates.

Source: *Canadian Urban Victimization Survey*, Solicitor General Canada.

**Table 6** Percentage of Offences Reported to Police, 1981

	Percentage Reported to Police		
	Female Victim	Male Victim	Total
	%	%	%
Sexual assault	39	34	38
Robbery	58	36	45
Assault	42	30	34
Personal theft	30	28	29
Total	36	30	33

Source: *Canadian Urban Victimization Survey*, Solicitor General Canada.

**Table 7** Reasons Given by Victims for Failure to Report Incidents, 1981<sup>1</sup>

	Sexual Assault		Assault		Robbery	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Police could not do anything	47	82 *	54	50	55	54
Negative attitude of police	47	**	19	12	13	11
Fear of revenge	35	**	21	7	10	11
Personal matter	29	**	30	29	20	23
Nothing taken	28	72 *	28	28	49	46
Incident too minor	24	**	53	67	57	56
Protect offender	19	**	19	13	11 *	9 *
Inconvenience	10 *	**	14	29	22	37

\* The actual count was low (11 to 20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this figure.

\*\* The actual count was too low to make statistically reliable estimates.

<sup>1</sup> Columns add to more than 100% because respondents could give more than one reason.

**Source:** *Canadian Urban Victimization Survey*, Solicitor General Canada.

**Table 8** Percentage of Offences Cleared by Charge and Cleared Otherwise, 1977 and 1982

	Cleared by Charge <sup>1</sup>		Cleared Otherwise <sup>2</sup>		Total Cleared	
	1977	1982	1977	1982	1977	1982
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sexual offences						
Rape	43.7	41.0	16.0	15.2	59.7	56.2
Indecent assault (on a woman)	34.7	34.9	21.6	21.5	56.3	56.4
Indecent assault (on a man)	48.4	45.4	18.2	20.7	66.6	66.1
Other sexual offences	38.9	41.6	18.5	20.4	57.4	62.0
Total	38.9	38.5	19.5	20.0	58.4	58.5
Other crimes of violence						
Homicide	77.4	74.6	7.6	10.7	85.0	85.3
Attempted murder	80.0	78.2	3.8	5.8	83.8	84.0
Assault	34.0	32.6	45.2	45.5	79.2	78.1
Robbery	29.4	24.0	3.8	5.1	33.2	29.1
Total	34.2	31.6	36.7	38.1	70.9	69.7

<sup>1</sup> Offences are cleared by charge when an arrest is made, a summons to appear is issued or a warrant to apprehend is laid against at least one person.

<sup>2</sup> Offences are cleared otherwise when the offender has been identified and enough is known to issue a warrant, yet, there is a reason outside of police control that prevents charging, for example, the offender has died, is in a foreign country, the complainant refuses to prosecute, or the offender has diplomatic immunity.

**Source:** *Crime and Traffic Enforcement Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-205.



**Table 9** How Police Handle Reported Rapes: Percentage of Reported Cases Unfounded, and Percentage of Offences Cleared by Charge and Cleared Otherwise, 1971-1982

	Number of Rapes Reported to Police	Reported Rapes Unfounded <sup>1</sup>	Actual Number of Rapes	Offences Cleared by Charge <sup>2</sup>	Offences Cleared Otherwise <sup>3</sup>	Total Offences Cleared
	No.	%	No.	%	%	%
1971	..	..	1,230	45.3	19.5	64.8
1972	2,237	42.7	1,285	44.2	17.5	61.7
1973	2,530	37.1	1,593	42.4	21.8	64.2
1974	2,868	36.4	1,823	44.0	17.6	61.6
1975	2,843	35.0	1,848	43.6	17.3	60.9
1976	2,915	37.3	1,828	45.0	17.6	62.6
1977	2,987	36.8	1,886	43.7	16.0	59.7
1978	3,089	34.8	2,014	44.7	17.0	61.7
1979	3,388	32.3	2,291	42.9	16.6	59.5
1980	3,625	29.4	2,559	41.0	14.6	55.6
1981	3,446	32.8	2,315	42.6	17.3	59.9
1982	3,633	30.4	2,528	41.0	15.2	56.2

<sup>1</sup> A reported offence is deemed to be unfounded when the investigation establishes that the crime did not happen or was not attempted. In 1982, 6% of all violent offences reported to police were listed as unfounded.

<sup>2</sup> Offences are cleared by charge when an arrest is made, a summons to appear is issued or a warrant to apprehend is laid against at least one person.

<sup>3</sup> Offences are cleared otherwise when the offender has been identified and enough is known to issue a warrant, yet, there is a reason outside of police control that prevents charging, for example, the offender has died, is in a foreign country, the complainant refuses to prosecute, or the offender has diplomatic immunity.

.. Figures not available.

Source: *Crime and Traffic Enforcement Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-205.

**Table 10** Women Charged With Criminal Offences, 1971-1982

	Violent Offences		Property Offences		All Criminal Code Offences		All Offences	
	No.	% <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1971	2,214	6.2	15,692	15.0	24,774	12.1	48,083	9.4
1972	2,466	6.7	17,539	16.3	27,291	12.7	49,165	9.6
1973	3,059	7.6	19,370	17.2	32,716	13.7	58,446	10.3
1974	3,140	7.5	22,115	18.0	35,075	13.9	60,563	10.0
1975	3,455	8.0	24,939	18.0	38,425	14.0	64,764	10.3
1976	3,739	8.4	28,538	19.0	43,250	14.5	70,136	10.8
1977	3,905	8.5	28,479	18.8	44,108	14.2	73,860	10.8
1978	4,109	8.6	33,239	20.3	49,006	15.0	80,004	11.3
1979	4,423	9.0	36,014	20.8	52,151	15.2	87,171	11.5
1980	4,925	9.3	38,653	19.8	56,408	15.0	96,514	11.7
1981	5,118	9.5	41,414	19.7	59,803	15.2	101,293	11.7
1982	5,277	9.8	42,940	19.8	59,957	15.5	99,898	12.5

<sup>1</sup> Women as a percentage of all adults charged.

Source: *Crime and Traffic Enforcement Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-205.

**Table 11** Distribution of Criminal Code and Drug Offences, 1982

	Total Women Charged	Women as a % of Adults Charged	% of Total Charges Against	
			Women	Men
Homicide and attempted murder	155	11.4	0.2	0.3
Assault	4,476	11.0	6.9	9.9
Robbery	525	7.0	0.8	1.9
Sexual offences	121	2.7	0.2	1.2
All violent offences	5,277	9.8	8.2	13.3
Break and enter	1,954	3.9	3.0	13.2
Theft of motor vehicle	617	5.4	1.0	2.9
Shoplifting	25,865	42.9	40.1	9.4
Other theft	4,324	9.7	6.7	11.0
Fraud	8,446	24.1	13.1	7.2
Having stolen property	1,734	11.7	2.7	3.6
All property offences	42,940	19.8	66.8	47.5
Prostitution	427	62.4	0.7	0.1
Other Criminal Code offences	11,313	9.8	17.5	28.6
All Criminal Code offences	59,957	15.5	93.0	89.5
Drug offences	4,524	10.5	7.0	10.5
Total	64,481	15.0	100.0	100.0

**Source:** *Crime and Traffic Enforcement Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-205.

Table 12 Results of Court Proceedings, by Offence Type, 1980<sup>1</sup>

	Violent Offences		Property Offences		Drug Offences		Other Offences		All Offences	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Convicted	48.1	58.5	67.6	68.7	45.9	69.7	57.1	58.8	61.6	61.7
Withdrawn	6.4	10.1	11.6	8.1	4.2	2.3	14.5	15.8	12.1	12.9
Stay of proceedings	23.5	12.0	8.5	11.7	32.8	11.9	18.3	12.5	14.3	12.2
Acquitted	11.1	12.0	3.8	5.0	2.3	5.4	5.8	5.5	4.8	5.7
Discharged	8.8	4.1	7.0	4.1	12.9	8.9	1.8	1.1	5.3	2.4
Dismissed	-	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.5	1.7	5.3	1.1	3.8
Other	2.1	2.3	0.7	1.5	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of cases	622	9,032	8,769	40,639	962	8,006	6,688	108,799	17,041	166,476

<sup>1</sup> These data are from courts reporting in British Columbia and Quebec.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

Table 13 Sentences for Convictions, by Offence Type, 1980<sup>1</sup>

	Violent Offences		Property Offences		Drug Offences		Other Offences		All Offences	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sentence:										
Probation	59.2	28.2	36.1	34.1	21.3	10.4	23.7	12.2	31.6	18.9
Fine	25.4	35.3	47.8	18.3	63.3	69.4	66.6	71.4	54.6	55.0
Not stated	1.3	-	0.1	0.3	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	0.3
Sent to an institution										
- Up to 6 months	9.7	20.2	15.2	30.5	11.3	13.7	9.3	14.9	12.7	19.4
- 6 to less than 24 months	1.3	8.2	0.6	13.5	4.1	4.5	0.1	1.1	0.6	5.0
- 2 to less than 5 years	2.3	5.2	0.2	3.4	-	1.8	0.1	0.3	0.2	1.4
- 5 to less than 10 years	-	1.9	-	0.1	-	0.2	0.1	0.1	-	0.2
- 10 years or more	-	0.3	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-
- Life	0.7	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total institution	14.0	36.4	16.0	47.6	15.4	20.2	9.6	16.4	13.6	26.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of convictions	299	5,284	5,932	27,927	442	5,580	3,819	63,988	10,492	102,779

<sup>1</sup> These data are from courts reporting in British Columbia and Quebec.

- Nil or amount too small to be expressed.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

**Table 14** Admissions to Penitentiaries, 1978-79 to 1981-82

	Number of Women Admitted	Number of Men Admitted	Women as a % of Total Admissions
1978-79	155	4,700	3.2
1979-80	103	4,537	2.2
1980-81	88	4,705	1.8
1981-82	101	5,352	1.9

Source: *Adult Correctional Services in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-211.

**Table 15** Offence Type and Length of Sentence of Persons in Federal Penitentiaries, 1979

	Women	Men
	%	%
Type of offence		
Homicide and attempted murder	23.0	18.1
Other violent offences against the person	9.0	11.9
Robbery	17.1	30.2
Property offences	14.1	22.5
Narcotics	30.4	9.5
Other	6.4	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0
Length of sentence		
Less than 2 years	4.3	5.5
2-5 years	55.5	43.5
5 years and over	30.4	38.2
Life	9.8	11.5
Other	-	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0
Total population <sup>1</sup>	234	9,298

<sup>1</sup> As of June 1, 1979.  
- Nil.

Source: *Correctional Institutions Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-207.



**Table 16** Types of Releases from Federal Penitentiaries, 1979

	Women	Men
	%	%
Expiration of sentence	2.6	4.7
Parole	58.3	36.1
Mandatory supervision	33.0	55.1
Other	6.1	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0
Total number of releases	115	4,596

**Source:** *Correctional Institutions Statistics*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-207.













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